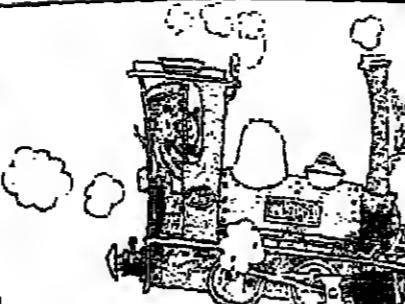
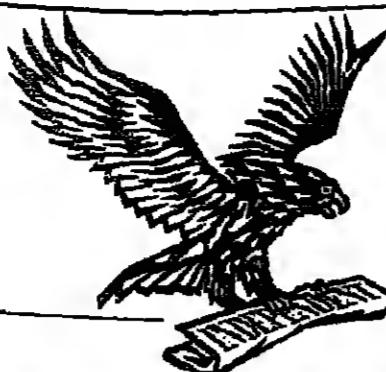


Fur flies in TV
pet wars

Page 3



What will your
child read today?

Weekend

Lights, camera,
popcorn

Magazine



THE INDEPENDENT

3,032

SATURDAY 6 JULY 1996

WEATHER Sunny spells and heavy showers

50p



Archbishop strides into moral maze

The Archbishop of Canterbury has delivered a stern warning on the state of the nation's private and public morality. Speaking in the House of Lords yesterday, he appealed for a return to the bedrock of the Ten Commandments and their "rich moral legacy".

Dr George Carey's latest moral campaign, which began with an interview in the *Independent* last month, has attracted widespread attention. Yesterday, however, he demonstrated the difficulties of preaching certainty to a fast-changing world. When asked on Radio 4's *Today* programme about the royal family and adultery, he equivocated. Pressed with the question "People say shouldn't the Archbishop say that adultery is wrong?", he replied, with what sounded distinctly like a touch of moral relativism, "I do not want to go into that."

The Archbishop's equivocation suggested that he too is following more than the Ten Commandments - among the more liberal rules used by modern Britain, "thou shalt not be too judgmental of others" is an important one. Today's church speaks little of hellfire and is more at ease with the gentler doctrines of forgiveness and turning the other cheek.

Even so, the Archbishop's words may touch a national chord. A Gallup poll published yesterday offers a snapshot of collective moral anxiety. Three-quarters of the population believe that too much moral choice is left to individuals, and the same proportion say that society is less moral than it was 50 years ago.

What this poll could not reveal, but social historians have shown time and again, is that it is a part of the natural human condition to imagine we are in a perpetual moral decline. Each generation tends to believe that children are worse than their parents. The myth of some golden age 50 years or so ago, when society was much better, has always been with us.

Yet a recent survey found that most people could only remember four of the Ten Commandments. We may still live by many of the fundamentals of the Judeo-Christian tradition, but other modern values clash with the old world of the Bible.

In particular, the Enlightenment introduced ideas that struck at the very heart of the biblical world of fixed moral certainties, attacking the moral universe of the dark ages - feudal, deferential, superstitious. The language of rights and democracy sits uncomfortably with ancient beliefs in the virtue of obedience.

Tolerance and understanding are modern, post-Enlightenment virtues that jar with Old Testament moral damnation. So does the idea that we have an inalienable right to the pursuit of happiness - a word no

THE INDEPENDENT
tably missing from the Ten Commandments.

Some of our new commandments are born of modern moral history. Nutmeg showed the danger of following national orders. After Freud other aspects of the old morality came crashing down. Honouring your father and mother has been replaced by a duty to cherish the child above all else. Child-centred meant a new moral upbringing focused less on duty than on self-fulfilment; selfishness was no longer unequivocally bad.

Freud made simple blame more difficult, for once we understood the catastrophic effect of a damaged childhood, it took the edge off good, old-fashioned responsibility for sin. The causes of wickedness became clouded by psychology. These days, the sins of the child are often rightly blamed upon the father.

Greed - covetousness - roundly condemned in the Ten Commandments, became the business ethic of the Eighties renamed as the virtue of "enterprise", the *sine qua non* of national economic survival.

So what are the modern moral precepts, the guy-ropes of public and private behaviour that sustain us in our search for certainties? *Independent* writers have collected some that seem to resonate as wise statements of our common beliefs, in a post-religious world.

"All men are created equal" - Thomas Jefferson, *The Declaration of Independence*

"Do unto others as you would have others do unto you" - Jesus Christ.

"I disapprove of what you say, but I will defend to the death your right to say it" - Voltaire

"The only thing necessary for the triumph of evil is for good men to do nothing" - Edmund Burke

"No man is an Island ... any man's death diminishes me, because I am involved in Mankind" - John Donne

"The bullet is stronger than the bullet" - Abraham Lincoln

"Ask not what your country can do for you - ask what you can do for your country" - John F. Kennedy

"He who passively accepts evil is as much involved in it as he who helps to perpetrate it" - Martin Luther King

"The world has enough to meet everyone's needs; not everyone's greed" - Mahatma Gandhi

"A degree of austerity is not only desirable but essential" - Lord Nolan's committee on standards in public life

"To thine own self be true" - William Shakespeare

"Forgiveness is the key to action and freedom" - Hannah Arendt

"Always let your conscience be your guide" - Justice Crick

STEVE BOGGAN
Malta

Four MPs and a member of the House of Lords are spending this weekend at a luxury Mediterranean resort as all-expenses-paid guests of a foreign airline.

The parliamentarians - who have been told to take their bathing costumes and sun lotion - have been flown by Air Malta to a five-star hotel in the Maltese resort of Sliema, where they will be wined and dined, shown the sights and offered a helicopter ride to the nearby island of Gozo.

Lady Olga Maitland, Tory MP for Sutton and Cheam, Gerald Kaufman, the former shadow Foreign Secretary, Simon Coombs, Conservative MP for Swindon, Barry Sheerman, Labour MP for Huddersfield, and Baroness Hooper, a Tory, have been invited to the island to celebrate Air Malta carrying its 10-millionth passenger.

Lady Olga and Mr Sheerman defended the trip yesterday, as they sunbathed by the side of the hotel swimming pool, pointing out that all five had reason to be there. Mr Sherman, Mr Coombs and Lady Olga were members of a variety of "Friends of Malta" or "Anglo-Maltese" groups, they said.

Lady Hooper said she may have been invited, with her sister, Angela, because she is a member of a parliamentary delegation to the Council of Europe at a time when Malta's main priority is to join the European Union. They probably presented to Parliament as early as next week.

"It will include guidance on accepting hospitality," said the source. "There are genuinely useful fact-finding missions and there are other types where you

close to the Commons Select Committee on Standards and Privileges told the *Independent* that the trip might be the last of its kind. It is understood the committee's long-awaited Code of Practice for members will be presented to Parliament as early as next week.

"It will include guidance on accepting hospitality," said the source. "There are genuinely useful fact-finding missions and there are other types where you

question the value of information that can be gleaned."

The parliamentarians met at Heathrow Airport yesterday morning, and were ushered through the "Fast Track" check-in to the Club Class lounge.

Once in their £538 seats, they

were given complimentary champagne and a choice of lamb or beef.

On arrival in Malta, they

were whisked to the £160-a-night Holiday Inn Crowne Plaza

close to the Commons Select Committee on Standards and Privileges told the *Independent* that the trip might be the last of its kind. It is understood the committee's long-awaited Code of Practice for members will be presented to Parliament as early as next week.

"It will include guidance on accepting hospitality," said the source. "There are genuinely useful fact-finding missions and there are other types where you

question the value of information that can be gleaned."

The parliamentarians met at Heathrow Airport yesterday morning, and were ushered through the "Fast Track" check-in to the Club Class lounge.

Once in their £538 seats, they

were given complimentary champagne and a choice of lamb or beef.

On arrival in Malta, they

were whisked to the £160-a-night Holiday Inn Crowne Plaza

close to the Commons Select Committee on Standards and Privileges told the *Independent* that the trip might be the last of its kind. It is understood the committee's long-awaited Code of Practice for members will be presented to Parliament as early as next week.

"It will include guidance on accepting hospitality," said the source. "There are genuinely useful fact-finding missions and there are other types where you

question the value of information that can be gleaned."

The parliamentarians met at Heathrow Airport yesterday morning, and were ushered through the "Fast Track" check-in to the Club Class lounge.

Once in their £538 seats, they

were given complimentary champagne and a choice of lamb or beef.

On arrival in Malta, they

were whisked to the £160-a-night Holiday Inn Crowne Plaza

close to the Commons Select Committee on Standards and Privileges told the *Independent* that the trip might be the last of its kind. It is understood the committee's long-awaited Code of Practice for members will be presented to Parliament as early as next week.

"It will include guidance on accepting hospitality," said the source. "There are genuinely useful fact-finding missions and there are other types where you

question the value of information that can be gleaned."

The parliamentarians met at Heathrow Airport yesterday morning, and were ushered through the "Fast Track" check-in to the Club Class lounge.

Once in their £538 seats, they

were given complimentary champagne and a choice of lamb or beef.

On arrival in Malta, they

were whisked to the £160-a-night Holiday Inn Crowne Plaza

close to the Commons Select Committee on Standards and Privileges told the *Independent* that the trip might be the last of its kind. It is understood the committee's long-awaited Code of Practice for members will be presented to Parliament as early as next week.

"It will include guidance on accepting hospitality," said the source. "There are genuinely useful fact-finding missions and there are other types where you

question the value of information that can be gleaned."

The parliamentarians met at Heathrow Airport yesterday morning, and were ushered through the "Fast Track" check-in to the Club Class lounge.

Once in their £538 seats, they

were given complimentary champagne and a choice of lamb or beef.

On arrival in Malta, they

were whisked to the £160-a-night Holiday Inn Crowne Plaza

close to the Commons Select Committee on Standards and Privileges told the *Independent* that the trip might be the last of its kind. It is understood the committee's long-awaited Code of Practice for members will be presented to Parliament as early as next week.

"It will include guidance on accepting hospitality," said the source. "There are genuinely useful fact-finding missions and there are other types where you

question the value of information that can be gleaned."

The parliamentarians met at Heathrow Airport yesterday morning, and were ushered through the "Fast Track" check-in to the Club Class lounge.

Once in their £538 seats, they

were given complimentary champagne and a choice of lamb or beef.

On arrival in Malta, they

were whisked to the £160-a-night Holiday Inn Crowne Plaza

close to the Commons Select Committee on Standards and Privileges told the *Independent* that the trip might be the last of its kind. It is understood the committee's long-awaited Code of Practice for members will be presented to Parliament as early as next week.

"It will include guidance on accepting hospitality," said the source. "There are genuinely useful fact-finding missions and there are other types where you

question the value of information that can be gleaned."

The parliamentarians met at Heathrow Airport yesterday morning, and were ushered through the "Fast Track" check-in to the Club Class lounge.

Once in their £538 seats, they

were given complimentary champagne and a choice of lamb or beef.

On arrival in Malta, they

were whisked to the £160-a-night Holiday Inn Crowne Plaza

close to the Commons Select Committee on Standards and Privileges told the *Independent* that the trip might be the last of its kind. It is understood the committee's long-awaited Code of Practice for members will be presented to Parliament as early as next week.

"It will include guidance on accepting hospitality," said the source. "There are genuinely useful fact-finding missions and there are other types where you

question the value of information that can be gleaned."

The parliamentarians met at Heathrow Airport yesterday morning, and were ushered through the "Fast Track" check-in to the Club Class lounge.

Once in their £538 seats, they

were given complimentary champagne and a choice of lamb or beef.

On arrival in Malta, they

were whisked to the £160-a-night Holiday Inn Crowne Plaza

close to the Commons Select Committee on Standards and Privileges told the *Independent* that the trip might be the last of its kind. It is understood the committee's long-awaited Code of Practice for members will be presented to Parliament as early as next week.

"It will include guidance on accepting hospitality," said the source. "There are genuinely useful fact-finding missions and there are other types where you

question the value of information that can be gleaned."

The parliamentarians met at Heathrow Airport yesterday morning, and were ushered through the "Fast Track" check-in to the Club Class lounge.

Once in their £538 seats, they

were given complimentary champagne and a choice of lamb or beef.

On arrival in Malta, they

were whisked to the £160-a-night Holiday Inn Crowne Plaza

close to the Commons Select Committee on Standards and Privileges told the *Independent* that the trip might be the last of its kind. It is understood the committee's long-awaited Code of Practice for members will be presented to Parliament as early as next week.

"It will include guidance on accepting hospitality," said the source. "There are genuinely useful fact-finding missions and there are other types where you

question the value of information that can be gleaned."

The parliamentarians met at Heathrow Airport yesterday morning, and were ushered through the "Fast Track" check-in to the Club Class lounge.

Once in their £538 seats, they

were given complimentary champagne and a choice of lamb or beef.

On arrival in Malta, they

were whisked to the £160-a-night Holiday Inn Crowne Plaza

close to the Commons Select Committee on Standards and Privileges told the *Independent* that the trip might be the last of its kind. It is understood the committee's long-awaited Code of Practice for members will be presented to Parliament as early as next week.

"It will include guidance on accepting hospitality," said the source. "There are genuinely useful fact-finding missions and there are other types where you

question the value of information that can be gleaned."

The parliamentarians met at Heathrow Airport yesterday morning, and were ushered through the "Fast Track" check-in to the Club Class lounge.

Once in their £538 seats, they

were given complimentary champagne and a choice of lamb or beef.

On arrival in Malta, they

news

INDEPENDENT
ON SUNDAY

special offer

half-price tomorrow 50p

Reader's name.....

Address.....

WHOLESALE'S NAME:

REFALERT'S BOX NO.:

To the Reader
Hand the voucher to the newsagent with a copy of the Independent on Sunday 7 July 1996 (readers copy 50p). To receive your normal weekly price of 10p, complete the form, please send to: Voucher Redemption Ltd, 17 Orton Court, Cranes Farm Rd, Beaulieu, Essex SS14 3OB
Ref: IOS/50P

To the Wholesaler
Please credit the returning wholesaler with 50p (Ref: IOS/50P). This includes 2p retailer handling allowance per voucher. To claim your credit, complete the form and send to: Voucher Redemption Ltd, 17 Orton Court, Cranes Farm Rd, Beaulieu, Essex SS14 3OB
Ref: IOS/50P

9 906480 100500
WHOLESALE'S NAME:
REFALERT'S BOX NO.:

THE INDEPENDENT on Monday

only 10p

Reader's name.....

Address.....

WHOLESALE'S NAME:

REFALERT'S BOX NO.:

To the Reader
Hand the voucher to the newsagent with a copy of The Independent on Monday 8 July 1996 (readers copy 10p). To receive your normal weekly price of 10p, complete the form, please send to: Voucher Redemption Ltd, 17 Orton Court, Cranes Farm Rd, Beaulieu, Essex SS14 3OB
Ref: SPM/10P

To the Wholesaler
Please accept this voucher as part payment for The Independent on Monday 8 July 1996, (readers copy 10p). To receive your normal weekly price of 10p, complete the form, please send to: Voucher Redemption Ltd, 17 Orton Court, Cranes Farm Rd, Beaulieu, Essex SS14 3OB
Ref: SPM/10P

9 906480 120300
WHOLESALE'S NAME:
REFALERT'S BOX NO.:

SIGNIFICANT SHORTS

A new test for Creutzfeldt-Jakob Disease has been developed which doctors say could be used for early diagnosis of the human form of "mad cow" disease.

The brain-imaging technique shows the extent and pattern of shrinkage in the skull over a period of months, even when the loss of tissue is very small. The brain shrinks at a rate of about 0.1 per cent a year in healthy people. In Alzheimer's Disease, the shrinking rate is about 1 per cent, and it is even higher in the early stages of CJD.

The technique developed by Dr Nick Fox and colleagues at the National Hospital for Neurology and Neurosurgery in London involves two scans taken some months apart using magnetic resonance imaging - a non-invasive scanning technique. A computer is used to superimpose the two scans with great precision so that doctors can identify any degree of brain shrinkage. At present, CJD can only be confirmed by post-mortem examination of the patient's brain. A biopsy of living brain tissue is also possible but the result is not conclusive. *Liz Hunt*

The no-smoking rules imposed by many trains companies withstood a legal challenge yesterday from a smoker who commutes between Brighton and London.

The Court of Appeal rejected Peter Boddington's bid to overturn a total smoking ban on the line. Mr Boddington argued that British Rail had no right to impose the ban under the terms of its own by-laws and was appealing against a £10 fine and £100 costs imposed by a magistrate for smoking in the train. The two judges ruled that BR could impose the ban and ordered Mr Boddington to pay costs which could reach £30,000. Lord Justice Auld said in his judgment, however, that there was "scope for legal debate" and the court will decide later whether the ban can go to the House of Lords. *Christopher Webber*

The role of insurers in child abuse investigations is to be examined by the Government.

The move comes in the wake of fears that investigations into child abuse and decisions on the publication of the findings of those inquiries have been influenced by the concerns of insurers about possible legal actions for damages from those who were abused. In Cleveland, only one out of 14 reports into abuse have ever been fully published. Councils were told in letters yesterday that the Government would be consulting local authority groups and looking at publishing new guidelines. *Roger Dobson*

A mental hospital nurse who was reinstated after being struck off for raping a "vulnerable" former patient was ordered by a High Court judge yesterday to be suspended once more from the professional register pending legal action by the Royal College of Nursing to stop him working again.

Yvonne How Gloy, 30, was convicted of the rape in 1984 and received a two years' imprisonment, suspended for 12 months. The offence was committed while she was a staff nurse for Brighton Health Authority. He already had a previous conviction in 1972, for sedating a patient in order to have sex with her. There was an outcry in the nursing profession when Chayh was restored to the register of nurses by the UK Central Council for Nursing, Midwifery and Health Visiting in March this year.

Richard, the Tory MP who resigned last month as Under-Secretary at the Welsh Office following allegations of an extra-marital affair, has survived an attempt by his Chwyd West constituency to deselect him. The way is now clear for Mr Richards to fight the next election after the local party executive, meeting in Colwyn Bay, gave him their backing. *Tony Heath*

A drink-driver kept his licence yesterday after magistrates accepted that he had been fooled by "designer pop". York magistrate were told that Peter Kilner asked for soda water in a nightclub because he intended driving home at closing time. But staff gave him pints of the drink Decoda, an alcoholic soda water. Thinking he was fit to drive after four pints, Mr Kilner got into his car and drove three miles home before he was stopped by police.

Paul Williams, for the defence, said: "As he was the driver of the party he was purposely drinking pints of soda water to stay sober. But there was a misunderstanding between Mr Kilner and the barmaid who thought in the hubbub of the club he asked for Decoda... He noticed nothing different in the taste... so had no way of knowing he was taking himself well over the limit."

The magistrate gave him an absolute discharge.

THE INDEPENDENT ABROAD

Austria Sch 40 Ntans £6.00 OVERSEAS SUBSCRIPTIONS
Belgium £9.60 Italy £4.50 Air mail, 13 weeks: Europe £130.76; Zone 1 (Middle
Carries £6.30 Malta £6.25 East, America, Africa and India £184.95; Zone 2 (Iris
Cyprus £11.20 Malta £4.30 East and Australia £206.70 To order, please see
Denmark £9.10 Norway £9.20 cheques payable to: Johnnes International Media Service
Irish Rep. £9.10 Portugal £6.25 Unit 47, Fairhaven, London E14 9TR or telephone 0171-3
France £14.80 Spain £8.30 539 8239. Credit cards welcome
Germany DM 4.5 Sweden £4.21 BACK ISSUES
Greece £4.50 Switzerland £8.00 Back issues of the Independent are available from
Luxembourg £1.50 USA \$3.00 Printers International, telephone 01992 402655.

Violence feared on Orange march

DAVID MCKITTRICK
Ireland Correspondent

The RUC has postponed until this morning a decision on whether to allow a controversial Orange parade through a Catholic district of the County Armagh town of Portadown tomorrow.

Police are hoping that a last-minute compromise will avoid a repetition of last year's three-day stand-off, when thousands of Orangemen camped out until an 800-strong contingent was allowed through the Catholic Garvagh Road area.

Orangemen in the mainly Protestant town insist they have been walking along the route for almost two centuries on their way back from a church service at Drumcree. Garvagh Road residents say the parade is a much-resented intrusion in their entirely Catholic district.

Tension in the area has been rising, and yesterday a number of human rights groups appealed to police not to use plastic bullets in any disorder which might take place.

Unionist party leader David Trimble and DUP leader the Rev Ian Paisley both said yesterday that they approved of the RUC's action in delaying a final decision. Mr Paisley added that re-routing the march would be "intolerable," while Mr Trimble said he suspected it would be allowed through on the same basis as last year.

But Sinn Fein president Gerry Adams said that ignore residents' wishes would be "coercive and provocative".

Special Offer
Save 10% now
Vehicle rescue from just

£26.50*

JOIN TODAY CALL FREE

0800 000 111

LINES OPEN MONDAY TO SATURDAY 8AM TO 8PM
AND SUNDAY 9AM TO 8PM

REF: C105

OUT
FERNANDEZ
MCGRATH

EXCLUSIVE SPONSOR OF THE ENGLAND FOOTBALL TEAM

Post today No stamp needed

TO: GREEN FLAG National Breakdown, FREEPOST, Leeds, W Yorks LS9 2GF. Please send me the INFORMATION PA

NAME: MAIL: HOME TEL: ADDRESS: COUNTRY: POSTCODE:

*For a once only enrolment fee of £9.50 valid if you join by Direct Debit. Cars registered before 31/7/97 are subject to an additional fee of £12.50. £26.50 is inclusive of a 10% saving on Recovery

Major has more gifts for the Scots

JAMES CUSICK

John Major continued his party's charm offensive in Scotland yesterday. Like an estranged husband determined to avoid a decree nisi, the Prime Minister came laden with gifts of new jobs for Scotland and stern warnings on the dangers of "divorce" from the union.

Addressing the Scottish Grand Committee, meeting in Dumfries for the first time, Mr Major became the first Westminster premier in 300 years to address a gathering of Scottish MPs on Scottish soil.

In the week that has seen the Government attempt to woo the Scots with the symbolic promise of returning the Stone of Scone, Mr Major offered a more practical gift when he announced new investment from Taiwan, worth £40 million and, crucially, bringing in 1,000 new jobs - as opposed to the furies of old Scotland - Mr Major passionately defended the success of the Union, stating that he was



Charm offensive: John Major at the meeting of the Grand Assembly in Dumfries

Photograph: Michael Scott

Prime Minister of the "United Kingdom", and that the Union was a "birthright beyond price" and should not be put at risk by politicians scrabbling around for votes." Raising the debate on the Union for the coming election campaign, Mr Major said that plans for devolution were "the beginning of the divorce between England and Scotland", and that he intended to fight "through, at and beyond the election".

His fight, however, is taking ever stranger forms. First with

the Stone of Scone, then with the St Andrews study - and yes, honour the memory of Scotland's national poet Robert Burns by laying a wreath at Burns' mausoleum at Dumfries. The Prime Minister also attended a Burns Gala evening, where he was gently reminded by Labour's chief whip and former Scottish Shadow Secretary Donald Dewar that the poet he had spent the Euro 96 football tournament. More seriously, he said the Scots were "not going to be bought off by symbols of ancient power" when they sought

genuine democratic power.

Mr Major had clearly chosen the Grand Committee to launch his party's first outright attack on Labour's promise to legislate for the Scottish assembly within a year of taking office. He said that such a timetable was "absurd". Outside the debate, he told journalists: "I know they will be out of office for 18 years, but they couldn't pass such constitutional matters through the House of Commons and House of Lords within 18 months."

BA pilots name day for indefinite strike

BARRIE CLEMENT
Labour Editor

Chaos at all major United Kingdom airports was in prospect after leaders of British Airways pilots yesterday called an indefinite strike from 16 July unless the company improves on its 3.6 per cent offer.

If negotiations fail to produce a settlement, few BA flights will be in the air from around 4am on that date anywhere in the world, according to the

A spokesman for British Airways tour operators BA Holidays, which caters for 15,000 passengers in July and August, said contingencies had already been worked out. She said they would try to fit travellers on to other carriers where possible and convenient, giving priority to people getting married or on honeymoons.

If passengers wish to cancel

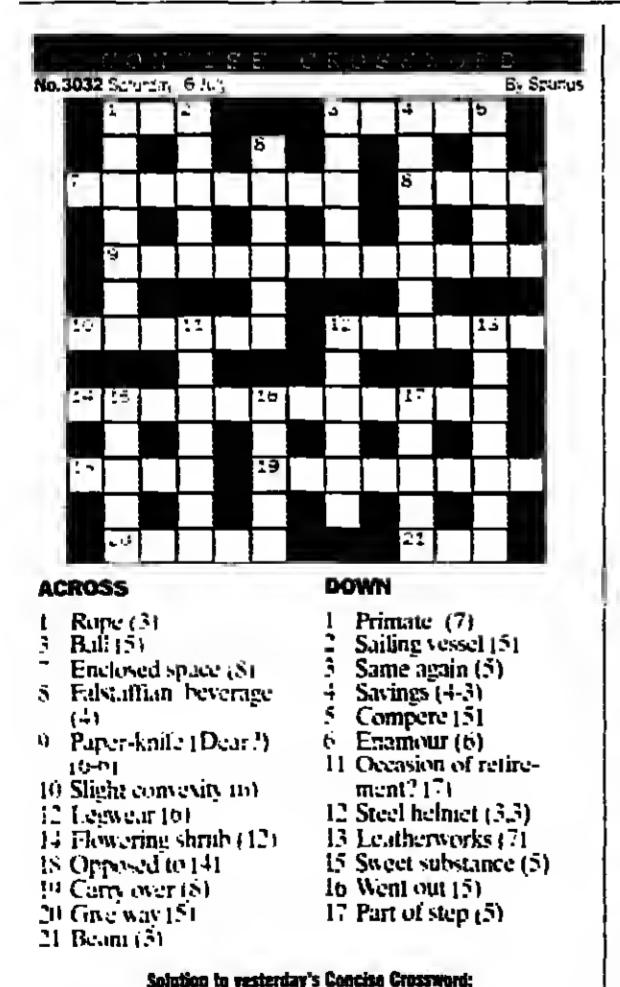
they can do so without a cancellation fee for departures up to July 31.

The management last night indicated that it may take legal action against the union alleging that the 90 per cent vote in favour of action was taken before an improved offer was made. Pilots operating out of Gatwick, who are paid considerably less than colleagues based at Heathrow, have been offered an additional 10 per cent to be paid for through increased flying hours.

Mr Darke was "puzzled and dismayed" by management's insistence on clarification of BA's

demands. The 16 July date will cause maximum embarrassment to BA because it coincides with the company's annual meeting.

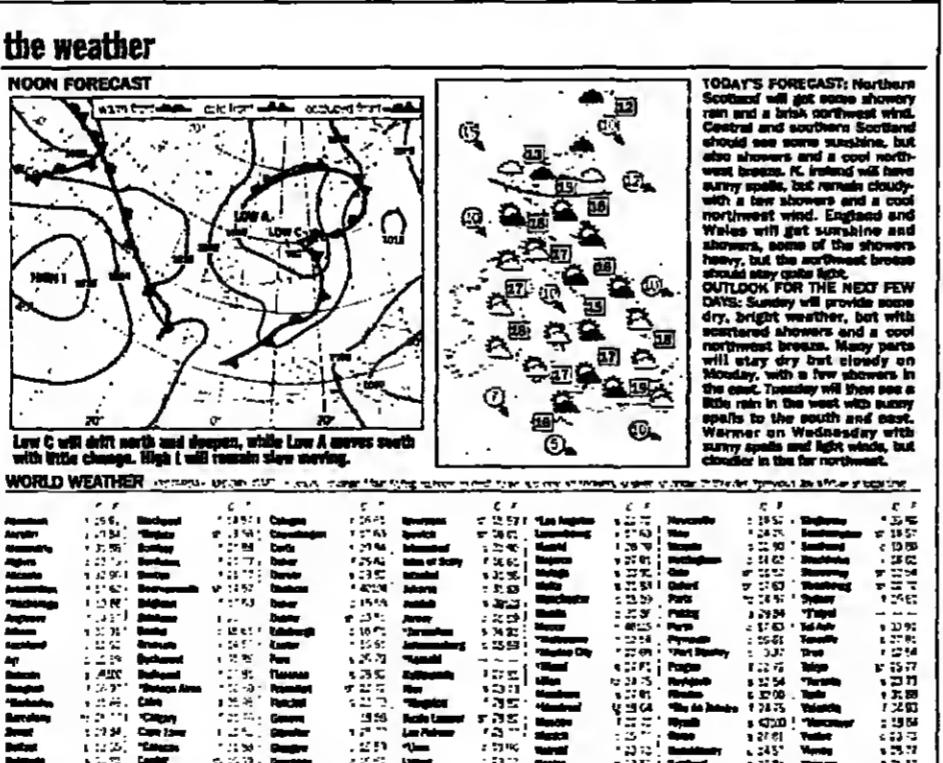
A spokesman for BA regretted the decision. The spokesman said that a revised offer had been made which was unknown to pilots. The ballot was therefore "out of date". "We are ready to talk without preconditions. The pilots should encourage their representatives to go back to the table."



Solution to yesterday's Concise Crossword:

ACROSS: 1. Crease, 4. Zing (Crusing), 8. Almost, 9. Prior, 10. Tens, 11. Phobic, 12. Miserably, 15. Dodgit, 17. About, 20. Deter, 21. Enthusiast, 22. Norm, 23. Taboo, 25. DOWN: 1. Caramel, 2. Elan, 3. Establishment, 4. Zip code, 5. Novel, 6. Taut, 7. Aster, 12. Sudden, 13. Epigram, 14. Tobacco, 16. Yacht, 18. Team, 19. Grub.

Notes



Police are hoping that a last-minute compromise will avoid a repetition of last year's three-day stand-off, when thousands of Orangemen camped out until an 800-strong contingent was allowed through the Catholic Garvagh Road area.

Orangemen in the mainly Protestant town insist they have been walking along the route for almost two centuries on their way back from a church service at Drumcree. Garvagh Road residents say the parade is a much-resented intrusion in their entirely Catholic district.

Tension in the area has been rising, and yesterday a number of human rights groups appealed to police not to use plastic bullets in any disorder which might take place.

Unionist party leader David Trimble and DUP leader the Rev Ian Paisley both said yesterday that they approved of the RUC's action in delaying a final decision. Mr Paisley added that re-routing the march would be "intolerable," while Mr Trimble said he suspected it would be allowed through on the same basis as last year.

But Sinn Fein president Gerry Adams said that ignore residents' wishes would be "coercive and provocative".

The RUC has postponed until this morning a decision on whether to allow a controversial Orange parade through a Catholic district of the County Armagh town of Portadown tomorrow.

Police are hoping that a last-minute compromise will avoid a repetition of last year's three-day stand-off, when thousands of Orangemen camped out until an 800-strong contingent was allowed through the Catholic Garvagh Road area.

Orangemen in the mainly Protestant town insist they have been walking along the route for almost two centuries on their way back from a church service at Drumcree. Garvagh Road residents say the parade is a much-resented intrusion in their entirely Catholic district.

Tension in the area has been rising, and yesterday a number of human rights groups appealed to police not to use plastic bullets in any disorder which might take place.

Unionist party leader David Trimble and DUP leader the Rev Ian Paisley both said yesterday that they approved of the RUC's action in delaying a final decision. Mr Paisley added that re-routing the march would be "intolerable," while Mr Trimble said he suspected it would be allowed through on the same basis as last year.

But Sinn Fein president Gerry Adams said that ignore residents' wishes would be "coercive and provocative".

Blood pressure drug is linked with cancer

LIZ HUNT
Health Editor

A range of top-selling drugs used to treat high blood pressure has been linked with an increased risk of cancer, according to a study which has prompted calls for a moratorium on their use.

A study of 750 people with high blood pressure by teams in the United States and Italy has suggested that those who were taking calcium channel blockers were twice as likely to develop cancer as those taking

other anti-hypertensive drugs. The findings are the latest in a series which have raised questions about the long-term safety of calcium channel blockers, which include the world's second best-selling drug, Adalat (nifedipine).

American researchers last year said that patients taking such drugs had a 60 per cent greater risk of heart attack compared with those on cheaper alternatives such as beta-blockers. The news sent share prices of some pharmaceutical companies plummeting, and called

into question their marketing methods. Calcium channel blockers are believed to have gained their market position through a combination of positive marketing and over-emphasis on the side-effects of rival medication.

Following the heart attack study doctors in Britain began rethinking their strategy for treating high blood pressure which affects 25 per cent of adults in the country - about 14 million people - and is a lucrative market.

Then another study pub-

lished in the *Lancet* journal earlier this year suggested that calcium channel blockers caused increased gastrointestinal bleeding in elderly patients. Now the new findings, published in the current issue of the *American Journal of Hypertension*, have uncovered a possible link with cancer.

In a group of 202 elderly patients on three different calcium channel blockers there were 27 cancers, 13 more than would be expected, according to scientists from the National Institute on Aging in Maryland and the

Catholic University in Rome. A US cancer specialist, Janet Daling of the Fred Hutchinson Cancer Research Center in Seattle, says there is a "biologically plausible" explanation for the role of the drugs in cancer development. They are known to inhibit the death of cells and could, in theory, allow cancerous cells to persist in the body.

Doctors here said yesterday that the safety of calcium channel blockers was an "issue" but definitive answers would not be forthcoming until an Anglo-

Scandinavian clinical trial reports in six years time. They urged patients taking calcium channel blockers such as nifedipine, verapamil, and diltiazem, not to panic and to continue with their medication.

Gareth Beevers, president of the British Hypertensive Society, professor of medicine at Birmingham University School of Medicine, said: "The American/Italian findings are interesting but they do not constitute proof of anything. We need proper randomised, controlled clinical trials. Until then we

should treat these claims from retrospective trials which are subject to biases with tremendous caution."

Professor Beevers said that the cancers reported in the elderly patients were a "mixed bag ... if they had all been one type, such as leukaemias, then I might feel differently". Calls by some US doctors for a ban on the use of the drugs for treating high blood pressure were "premature", he added.

Dr Graham Leighton, head of medical affairs at Bayer, which makes the drug Adalat, said that the drug had been used in 90,000 patients worldwide over 20 years and there was no evidence of any problems.

He said the new study was in too small a group of patients to be significant, and that the earlier studies linking calcium channel blockers with heart attacks and bleeding, had been disputed by other independent researchers. "Our first concern is to make sure that patients are not put at risk, and that they don't come off their drugs on the basis of questionable findings," he said.

Animal crackers: TV presenters go into battle as Johnny Morris condemns popular BBC show as disgusting and unpleasant

Fur flies as performing pets receive a clawing

LOUISE JURY

The fur flew, the claws were out. The man who brought the natural world to life for generations of children had gone on the offensive on behalf of the animal world.

Johnny Morris, the presenter who gave voices to characters such as Doffy the Lemur and Broly the Umbrella-Cockatoo in the classic television series *Animal Magic*, condemned *Pets*

consideration is given to the animals'.

Certain creatures suffered stress much more than others and the warning signals could be difficult to spot, he said from the home he shares with three cats in Hungerford, Berkshire.

"Animals like dogs are used to being with us and doing what we ask them to do. But pussy cats, for example, don't like strange situations. They want to be at home."

His objections were nothing to do with the argument that the animals were made to look fools. "They don't know what that means," he said, dismissively.

Mr Morris suspected the real fools were the viewers and the producers. "I'm concerned about the level of intelligence of the audience going to watch this programme. And the BBC are definitely out of their minds. They are bloody bonkers."

Mr Morris and the BBC parted company on the subject of animals some 13 years ago when the 21-year-old children's classic series *Animal Magic*, based at Bristol Zoo, ended amid acrimony over the corporation's attempts to update it.

The former presenter still receives scores of letters from people asking for a return to the old days - "when I think we paid respect to animals" and children were informed as well as being entertained.

"We all knew what our families liked and we considered very carefully what we did. [Pets] is devoid totally of any concern or consideration to animals."

"We have no doubt that the

millions of people who enjoy *Pets* appreciate that great care is taken to ensure animals are properly looked after," a spokeswoman said.

Bill Swann, assistant chief veterinary officer of the Royal Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals said the society had written to the programme over incidents in the past, such as when hamsters were placed inside plastic spheres and when pigs were brought into the studio to hunt for truffles.

"One of our basic guidelines is that animals should not be put in circumstances where they cannot extricate themselves if they become frightened or distressed," he said.

Personally, he did not approve of animals being used in this way. "I don't find it suitable family entertainment," he said.

Not so magic: Johnny Morris - at home with his cat, Charlie - has launched an attack on 'Pets Win Prizes' and its presenter, Dale Winton (right)

Photograph: Stuart Harrison



If you'd like to know more about our unique whiskey, write to us for a free booklet at the Jack Daniel Distillery, Lynchburg, Tennessee USA.

IN MR. BILL EDWARDS' POSITION, it isn't improper to spit.

As a taster for Jack Daniel Distillery, he'll sample a lot of whiskey in a day. But Bill never swallows a drop. He'll roll the whiskey around in his mouth, tasting it for smoothness and maturity. And when he retires it to a spittoon, there's no sense of impropriety. Around here, everyone knows if we didn't have people spending their days spittin', we wouldn't have a whiskey so highly valued for sippin'.



JACK DANIEL'S TENNESSEE WHISKEY

Game of chicken ends in arrest

DAVID USBORNE
NEW YORK

Played out almost daily in shopping malls and back alleys across America, it is the kind of situation every American police officer dreads: a stand-off with a suspected felon who, in a last desperate attempt at self-preservation, seizes a hostage and threatens instant murder unless the law backs off.

In Uniondale, Long Island, however, the script was less *The Taking of Pelham 1 2 3* and more *Woody Allen or the Goodies*. "Stop right there or the rooster gets it," might have been the

demand of Roderick Baker, as police detectives and state sanitation officials arrived at his quiet suburban home.

The fuzz were chasing Mr Baker not because he was accused of any dramatic sort of crime. Rather, his neighbours had simply complained about the chickens in his backyard. The birds and were malodorous and noisy and were threatening the otherwise cosy atmosphere of the street, they said.

But Mr Baker, 70, a self-proclaimed antiquities dealer, did not take kindly to the intrusion. Feathers flew (and more) as he vowed to kill one bird every

minute until the fuzz went away. The authorities refused to comply and, you might say, a bloody game of chicken ensued. Before Mr Baker was finally rushed by the startled officers, three minutes ticked by and three birds met an untimely end.

More shocked than anyone by the brouhaha were the neighbours, who had filed the police complaint in the first place. "He is such a quiet man," said Angela Avila, who lives next door. "Nobody liked the chickens running around, but he was always very polite." You wouldn't expect this.

Bird lovers were also less than



Microsoft claims that the original errors must have been caused by the use of an old dictionary in compilation. But this excuse is of little comfort to teachers and parents who say that millions of youngsters have already been able to access the offensive words.

The PC that isn't PC is lost for words

JOHN WILLCOCK

Bill Gates' company Microsoft has been forced to perform a humiliating U-turn after Spanish users of the computer giant's Windows 95 dictionary attacked it as racist, fascist, sexist and offensive.

The company has suffered a deluge of complaints in recent weeks from customers who have been angered by a plethora of outdated and insulting definitions. According to the magazine *Computer Weekly*, the word "lesbian" is defined as "perverted and vicious" while "homosexual" is described as merely "perverted and deviant".

Suggested alternatives for "woman" do not even include "human being" or "persons". The dictionary does, however, suggest "doncella", which means servant or virgin. "Señorita", the Spanish for "Miss", Venus and Eve.

Indigenous peoples around the world also get a rough ride. Alternative words include cannibal, savage, barbarian and kafir, alongside aborigine, Indian and Bedouin. In contrast a "Westerner" gets a glowing, if sexist, description that includes

"a European man, Aryan, white, civilised and cultured".

The Human Rights Association of Andalucia in southern Spain was one of the first to lodge a formal complaint with Microsoft, calling the definitions racist and sexist. Newspapers such as *El País* then took up the issue and Microsoft launched a damage-limitation exercise.

Bill Gates, who is one of the United States' richest men, is acutely conscious of his public image and he is keen to be seen as a progressive.

A Microsoft spokeswoman in the company's European head office in Ireland said yesterday: "It's not that Spanish dictionary thing again, is it? We are very aware of the problem. We are in the process of correcting it. We welcome any input from customers in compiling the new dictionary."

A Spanish linguist has been hired and the new dictionary has been prepared in just over a week since the scandal broke.

However, local critics complain that it still does not contain any Andalucian or Catalan dialect synonyms for everyday words.

CAREY'S CRUSADE

'It's a do-it-yourself morality. We've



Dr Carey: 'The vocabulary of moral discourse – virtue, sin, good, bad, right, wrong – has come under acute suspicion'

Photograph: Tom Pilston

ANDREW BROWN

Religious Affairs Correspondent

The Archbishop of Canterbury, Dr George Carey, yesterday claimed that the tide was turning in favour of objective morality, and against the notion that moral questions were subject to personal preference. Speaking to an attentive House of Lords, he said that passive immorality was damaging the moral health of the nation.

"Non-smokers may be affected and even damaged by the lifestyle of others who do smoke. The same is true when it comes to the moral health of a nation. There is a widespread tendency to view what is good and right as a matter of private taste and individual opinion. Under this tendency God is banished to the realm of the private hobby, and religion becomes a private activity for those who happen to have a taste for it."

The traditional vocabulary of moral discourse – virtue, sin, good, bad, right, wrong, moral, wholesome, godly, righteous, and sober – all these terms have

come under acute contemporary suspicion."

However, having painted this picture of moral desolation, the Archbishop said: "When we see how people react to an event such as the Dunblane massacre, we see that the assumptions of moral relativism do not reflect what virtually everyone actually believes."

He urged schools to teach morality by example as well as exhortation. "The moral and spiritual dimensions of education should be present in the teaching of arts, music, literature, science, and the use of science."

Dr Carey dealt only briefly with the question of whether the values missing from society should be religious. "We take it for granted, my Lords, that you cannot play a game of football without rules. Rules do not

get in the way of the game; they make the game possible. Rules which make life worthwhile and keep relationships faithful and true are inextricably linked to the deepest things we believe about God and the values which transcend us all. Our nation, steeped deeply in the faith and values of the Judeo-Christian tradition, has been shaped by the Ten Commandments, and the teachings and example of Jesus Christ. We are in danger of squandering this inheritance."

Other peers were franker about the difficulties of such a

project. Lord Morris of Castle Morris wanted religious education to be in the hands of teachers who practised and believed one of the great faiths. However, he confessed that this would be impossible in practice: there just weren't enough believing teachers.

The chamber, which had been nearly full for Dr Carey's speech, thinned out rapidly as speakers took their obsessions for a Friday morning canter.

Lord Longford, for example, spent four minutes congratulating those who had spoken before him. He then moved on to sex, a subject Dr Carey had carefully avoided. "If you ask 10 humanists about adultery, you will get 10 different answers," he stated. "The mind reeled. What sort of answers? No? Depends on the circumstances? Tuesday next week all right?"

The noble Lord continued: "On sexual morals there has been a steady decline. Sex before marriage leads to divorce. Divorce leads to broken homes. Broken homes lead to crime."

I twisted around to see how the packed public gallery was taking this. Most just looked bewildered. But one middle-aged woman was rubbing tears away from her eyes with a fingertip, as if pierced to the heart by Lord Longford's analysis. Her anguished face was a sudden, violent reminder that even the most plonking public discussions of morality are really about private lives and private pain.

Humphrys versus Carey

Lord Longford was not the only one to say that the two men had different attitudes to sex. "It is not us all, and it is not the church, that is guilty of adultery," wrote Humphrys. "It is very important that we do not let us all be blamed for the sins of the moment."

Approval mixed with suspicion

The Home Secretary, Michael Howard, said he "strongly welcomed" the call for better moral instruction for children. "There can be no greater influence for society's good than giving young people an unequivocal moral framework for their lives."

"Nowhere is that clearer than in dealing with crime. There must be much greater emphasis on the part which schools and parents can play in teaching children the difference between right and wrong."

But David Deeks, general secretary of the Methodist Churches' division of social responsibility, said: "The Archbishop has under-estimated the huge gap between his starting point and where most people are in society in terms of values and interests and aims."

"Parents do teach children values. They teach them values which the Archbishop disapproves of," he said.

Terry Dicks, Tory MP for Hayes and Harlington, said: "It'll become a churchman to say that we should go back to traditional values when he allows perverts, such as homosexuals, to preach from the pulpit. On that basis, this seems an illogical and hypocritical stand for a churchman to take."

Professor Bernard Williams, professor of Moral Philosophy at Corpus Christi College, Oxford University, said there was

Politicians and theologians are divided, reports Michael Streeter

a problem with who had the moral authority to make pronouncements on the way people lived their lives. "I think a list of things from authoritative figures is not likely to make a tremendous impact on that."

"The fact that something is drawn up by a Bishop or his associates or his advisors is not going to make a great deal of impact on people because the question arises of what their authority is in these matters."

Speaking on BBC Radio 4's *The World At One*, he said it was "humbug" to extol the virtues of the individual and their success in society and then say that we should all be nicer; most people were aware of morality in their own way.

Sir Rhodes Boyson, MP for Brent North and an ex-headmaster, said the 1944 Education Acts on religious assemblies should be more strictly enforced. "The intentions of the Act have been largely betrayed with little or no protest from the churches."

We need friends because there is always an alternative route.



After 10 minutes you save 25%.

After 10 minutes on the phone, the cost of the rest of the call is cut by 25%.

So now you can say more for less.

It's called Surprise Saver and it applies to calls made at anytime of day or night, and to anywhere.

It even includes calls to other countries. This should be good news for all you chatterboxes out there.

The offer is valid throughout the whole of July and August.

Don't forget these will be extra savings

if you're already getting discounts from Friends & Family and PremierLine.

So luvvy, now you can talk for longer. And that's perfectly normal.

BT It's good to talk

*EXCLUDES CALLS TO MOBILES, PREMIUM RATE SERVICES, OPERATOR ASSISTED CALLS, AND CALLS FROM BT PUBLIC PAYPHONES.

Friends of the earth

01582 482 297

Join now

CAREY'S CRUSADE

lost our sense of right and wrong'

Few children turn to religion for ethical lead

CLARE GARNER

Morality is a multi-coloured mishmash for 15-year-olds at Moulsham High. "There are no black and whites. It's very multi-coloured. There's black, yellow, white, orange... everyone has their own opinion. Everyone has a different colour, if you like," said Alex Hassell, the son of a Church of England vicar and a practising Christian himself. This is, he says, a "good thing". "Everyone should be individual," he insisted.

Pupils at the 1,500-strong mixed comprehensive in Chelmsford, Essex, say they turn to their parents first for moral guidance but also rely on their teachers to "help, enhance and back [their parents] up". But nothing and nobody is going to baffle these children into believing anything they don't agree with.

Few take their moral cue from religion and they would all be happy to rewrite the Ten Commandments. "By our age you don't go by the Ten Commandments," said Liza Coffin. "You go by what's right and wrong. Sometimes my parents will say I'm wrong, but I've got my own views."

Parents an obstacle to early lessons

FRAN ABRAMS
Education Correspondent

Schools already teach children right from wrong and the Ten Commandments, teachers said yesterday. They claimed a large part of their jobs already involved explaining to children why they should not steal or tell lies, adding that their jobs were often made more difficult by unco-operative parents.

John Dunford, head of Durham Johnston Comprehensive school, County Durham, said he often based assemblies on the Commandments. "I might give a series of short readings... We might then discuss ways in which stealing is wrong," he said.

Dr Carey had probably gone to school in an age when schools, parents and society were all pulling in the same direction, he said. Now, the school's good work was obstructed by other pressures including those from films and television. "We only have the children for five or six hours a day, 200 days a year. It must be society's expectation that the main responsibility should fall on parents," Mr Dunford said.

Other teachers agreed with him. The Ten Commandments were already in the Religious Education syllabus, and other religions studied by children had many similar rules, they said.

'He stood up for what he thought was right'

A bus driver who died after chasing a gang of youths who robbed him suffered a fatal heart attack, it was disclosed yesterday.

Harry Oakley, 45, of Speke, Liverpool, was discovered dead on Tuesday in a block of flats in the city centre after he pursued eight to ten youths who stole the cash dispenser from his bus.

He was found in a pool of blood and his death was initially being investigated by murder squad detectives but yesterday a post-mortem examination revealed Mr Oakley, married with a 21-year-old daughter, had died of natural causes.

He had a cut to his head, believed to be caused as he collapsed on the third-floor landing. However police are still treating his death as suspicious.

Police yesterday interviewed a 16-year-old about the incident. The chase occurred after a CMT Transport number 122 red bus had stopped in Bryton Street, in Liverpool city centre, at about 11am on Thursday, when youths jumped aboard.

They snatched the driver's cash dispenser and took and fled, but he gave chase, leaving the double-decker unattended.

Police believe that Mr Oakley ran through nearby streets

CLASSROOM VIEW

Others don't know where they stand and are happy to admit it. "I don't know what I believe," said Jonathan Ellicott. "I want to do what I want to do. I take every day as it comes."

Many of their morals depend on circumstances. There are no out and out no-nos except for murder. Divorce is "fine" if you don't love each other any more - you shouldn't "fake it". Liza, a practising Christian, took a strong stance on the subject. "Divorce shouldn't be so easy but it should be an option," she said.

Twice a week the pupils have a 50-minute lesson called Religious Personal Development

(RPD) which covers issues such as drugs, sex, careers and religion. "It's definitely helped me," said Emily. "At the moment, we're doing drugs. We're given the information and we make our own minds up." Alex disagreed. "To be perfectly honest, RPD hasn't shaped my opinions at all," he said. "It's not because I think the teachers are wrong but I have quite detailed opinions."

Each child attends assembly twice a week. The format depends on who is taking it, but the head teacher, Dr Chris Nicholls, 45, likes to give a brief talk designed to convey a moral message and to end with a prayer. "One of [assembly's] functions is to bring to youngsters an opportunity to gain some contact with issues of spirituality and faith," Dr Nicholls said.

But the message doesn't seem to be hitting home. Assemblies, the children say, "does nothing at all". No one has respect for assembly," said Jonathan. "There are so many people sitting in a room listening to someone talking. It's boring." Instead, they learn from interaction with teachers individually.



Parents first: Children at Moulsham High, Chelmsford, Essex, said they relied on teachers to back up guidance received at home. Photograph: Brian Harris

cept for murder. Divorce is "fine" if you don't love each other any more - you shouldn't "fake it". Liza, a practising Christian, took a strong stance on the subject. "Divorce shouldn't be so easy but it should be an option," she said.

Twice a week the pupils have a 50-minute lesson called Religious Personal Development

Dixons PHOTOSHOW '96

CANON SLRs - 0% INTEREST PLUS SAVE UP TO £60

SAVE UP TO £50 ON CAMERAS



CHINON ZC200

38-70mm ZOOM CAMERA
• Auto-flash with 'red-eye' reduction.
• Self-timer.
• LCD panel. Was £149.99.

£99.99
Dixons Deal

OLYMPUS TRIP 201

35mm COMPACT CAMERA
• Auto-focus
• Red-eye reducing flash
• Self-timer
• Auto-wind/rewind. Was £49.99.

£39.99
Dixons Deal

OLYMPUS TRIP AF31

35mm COMPACT CAMERA
• Auto-focus
• Red-eye reducing flash
• Self-timer
• Date back. Was £59.99.

£49.99
Dixons Deal

POLAROID VISION

INSTANT CAMERA
• 35mm
• Auto-focus
• Self-timer
• Date back. Was £59.99.

£59.99
Dixons Deal

PENTAX ESPIO 120

38-120mm ZOOM COMPACT CAMERA
• 2x zoom including optical zoom for perfectly exposed pictures
• Auto-focus
• Date back. Was £249.99.

£249.99
Dixons Deal

OLYMPUS ZOOM 2000 QD

35mm COMPACT CAMERA
• Auto-focus
• Red-eye reducing flash
• Self-timer
• Date back. Was £139.99.

£139.99
Dixons Deal

PENTAX ESPIO 120

38-120mm ZOOM COMPACT CAMERA
• 2x zoom including optical zoom for perfectly exposed pictures
• Auto-focus
• Date back. Was £59.99.

£59.99
Dixons Deal

OLYMPUS ZOOM 2000 QD

35mm COMPACT CAMERA
• Auto-focus
• Red-eye reducing flash
• Self-timer
• Date back. Was £69.99.

£69.99
Dixons Deal

CANON EOS 5000

TWIN ZOOM SLR OUTFIT

• Canon 38-76mm & 80-200mm zoom lenses.
• Full auto mode and 4 PIC programme modes.
Was £449.99.

£399.99
Dixons Deal



ALSO AVAILABLE
CANON EOS 5000

35mm AUTOFOCUS SLR CAMERA
Canon 38-76mm lens.
Was £329.99.

£269.99
Dixons Deal

20% DEPOSIT & 12 DIRECT DEBIT MONTHLY PAYMENTS OF £34.47

20% DEPOSIT & 12 DIRECT DEBIT MONTHLY PAYMENTS OF £34.47

20% DEPOSIT & 12 DIRECT DEBIT MONTHLY PAYMENTS OF £34.47

20% DEPOSIT & 12 DIRECT DEBIT MONTHLY PAYMENTS OF £34.47

20% DEPOSIT & 12 DIRECT DEBIT MONTHLY PAYMENTS OF £34.47

20% DEPOSIT & 12 DIRECT DEBIT MONTHLY PAYMENTS OF £34.47

20% DEPOSIT & 12 DIRECT DEBIT MONTHLY PAYMENTS OF £34.47

20% DEPOSIT & 12 DIRECT DEBIT MONTHLY PAYMENTS OF £34.47

20% DEPOSIT & 12 DIRECT DEBIT MONTHLY PAYMENTS OF £34.47

20% DEPOSIT & 12 DIRECT DEBIT MONTHLY PAYMENTS OF £34.47

20% DEPOSIT & 12 DIRECT DEBIT MONTHLY PAYMENTS OF £34.47

20% DEPOSIT & 12 DIRECT DEBIT MONTHLY PAYMENTS OF £34.47

20% DEPOSIT & 12 DIRECT DEBIT MONTHLY PAYMENTS OF £34.47

20% DEPOSIT & 12 DIRECT DEBIT MONTHLY PAYMENTS OF £34.47

20% DEPOSIT & 12 DIRECT DEBIT MONTHLY PAYMENTS OF £34.47

20% DEPOSIT & 12 DIRECT DEBIT MONTHLY PAYMENTS OF £34.47

20% DEPOSIT & 12 DIRECT DEBIT MONTHLY PAYMENTS OF £34.47

20% DEPOSIT & 12 DIRECT DEBIT MONTHLY PAYMENTS OF £34.47

20% DEPOSIT & 12 DIRECT DEBIT MONTHLY PAYMENTS OF £34.47

20% DEPOSIT & 12 DIRECT DEBIT MONTHLY PAYMENTS OF £34.47

20% DEPOSIT & 12 DIRECT DEBIT MONTHLY PAYMENTS OF £34.47

20% DEPOSIT & 12 DIRECT DEBIT MONTHLY PAYMENTS OF £34.47

20% DEPOSIT & 12 DIRECT DEBIT MONTHLY PAYMENTS OF £34.47

20% DEPOSIT & 12 DIRECT DEBIT MONTHLY PAYMENTS OF £34.47

20% DEPOSIT & 12 DIRECT DEBIT MONTHLY PAYMENTS OF £34.47

20% DEPOSIT & 12 DIRECT DEBIT MONTHLY PAYMENTS OF £34.47

20% DEPOSIT & 12 DIRECT DEBIT MONTHLY PAYMENTS OF £34.47

20% DEPOSIT & 12 DIRECT DEBIT MONTHLY PAYMENTS OF £34.47

20% DEPOSIT & 12 DIRECT DEBIT MONTHLY PAYMENTS OF £34.47

20% DEPOSIT & 12 DIRECT DEBIT MONTHLY PAYMENTS OF £34.47

20% DEPOSIT & 12 DIRECT DEBIT MONTHLY PAYMENTS OF £34.47

20% DEPOSIT & 12 DIRECT DEBIT MONTHLY PAYMENTS OF £34.47

20% DEPOSIT & 12 DIRECT DEBIT MONTHLY PAYMENTS OF £34.47

20% DEPOSIT & 12 DIRECT DEBIT MONTHLY PAYMENTS OF £34.47

20% DEPOSIT & 12 DIRECT DEBIT MONTHLY PAYMENTS OF £34.47

20% DEPOSIT & 12 DIRECT DEBIT MONTHLY PAYMENTS OF £34.47

20% DEPOSIT & 12 DIRECT DEBIT MONTHLY PAYMENTS OF £34.47

20% DEPOSIT & 12 DIRECT DEBIT MONTHLY PAYMENTS OF £34.47

20% DEPOSIT & 12 DIRECT DEBIT MONTHLY PAYMENTS OF £34.47

20% DEPOSIT & 12 DIRECT DEBIT MONTHLY PAYMENTS OF £34.47

20% DEPOSIT & 12 DIRECT DEBIT MONTHLY PAYMENTS OF £34.47

20% DEPOSIT & 12 DIRECT DEBIT MONTHLY PAYMENTS OF £34.47

20% DEPOSIT & 12 DIRECT DEBIT MONTHLY PAYMENTS OF £34.47

20% DEPOSIT & 12 DIRECT DEBIT MONTHLY PAYMENTS OF £34.47

20% DEPOSIT & 12 DIRECT DEBIT MONTHLY PAYMENTS OF £34.47

20% DEPOSIT & 12 DIRECT DEBIT MONTHLY PAYMENTS OF £34.47

20% DEPOSIT & 12 DIRECT DEBIT MONTHLY PAYMENTS OF £34.47

20% DEPOSIT & 12 DIRECT DEBIT MONTHLY PAYMENTS OF £34.47

20% DEPOSIT & 12 DIRECT DEBIT MONTHLY PAYMENTS OF £34.47

20% DEPOSIT & 12 DIRECT DEBIT MONTHLY PAYMENTS OF £34.47

20% DEPOSIT & 12 DIRECT DEBIT MONTHLY PAYMENTS OF £34.47

20% DEPOSIT & 12 DIRECT DEBIT MONTHLY PAYMENTS OF £34.47

20% DEPOSIT & 12 DIRECT DEBIT MONTHLY PAYMENTS OF £34.47

20% DEPOSIT & 12 DIRECT DEBIT MONTHLY PAYMENTS OF £34.47

20% DEPOSIT & 12 DIRECT DEBIT MONTHLY PAYMENTS OF £34.47

20% DEPOSIT & 12 DIRECT DEBIT MONTHLY PAYMENTS OF £34.47

20% DEPOSIT & 12 DIRECT DEBIT MONTHLY PAYMENTS OF £34.47

20% DEPOSIT & 12 DIRECT DEBIT MONTHLY PAYMENTS OF

6 news

Jersey's people are made kings of their castles

PHILIP JEUNE

Britain has finally decided that two great castles built on the Channel Island of Jersey to keep French invaders at bay, are no longer needed.

The ownership of Moot Orgueil Castle and Elizabeth Castle is to be transferred from the Crown to the people of Jersey today when Lieutenant-Governor General Sir Michael Wilkes, the Queen's representative on the island, hands over the keys of each castle to the Bailiff of Jersey, Sir Philip Bailhache.

Sir Michael will be accompanied at the two ceremonies by a guard made up of members of the Company of Pikemen and Musketeers which forms part of Britain's oldest regiment, the Honorary Artillery Company. Their usual role is to provide a bodyguard for the Lord Mayor of London on ceremonial occasions.

Moot Orgueil - Munt

Pride - which overlooks Gorey Harbour on Jersey's east coast, is an imposing medieval castle in an excellent state of preservation. Built in the 13th century to defend the island after King John lost Normandy, which is just 14 miles away across the sea, it was successfully occupied by the French on several occasions over the following centuries.

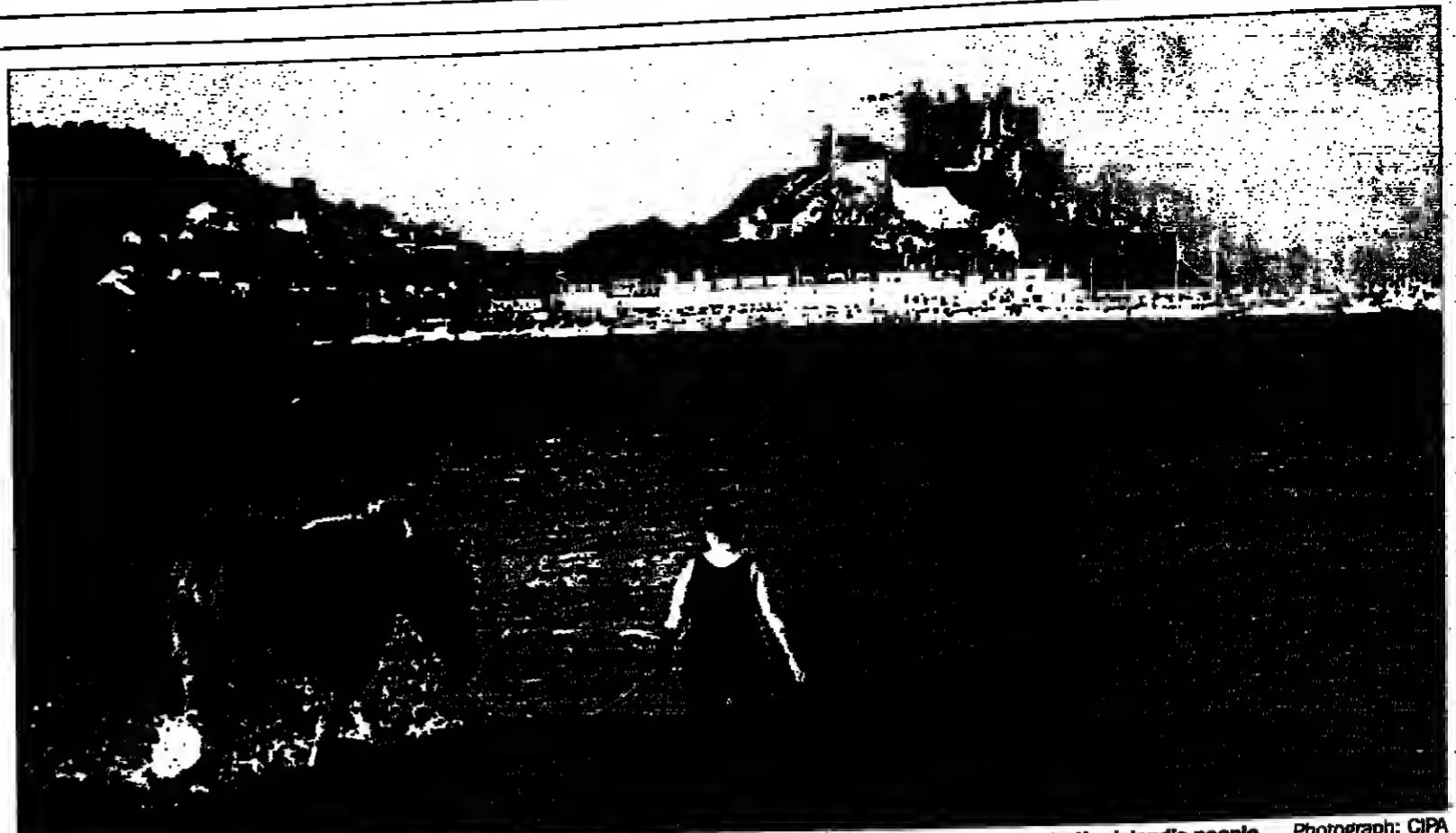
Elizabeth Castle was built at the end of the 16th century half a mile out to sea from St Helier, which was rapidly developing as the island's centre of trade. The castle was built on a rocky outcrop where the Belgian hermit Helier lived in the sixth century before he was murdered by pirates.

Like Moot Orgueil, Elizabeth Castle was used as a residence by the island's governor. One of the first to live at Elizabeth Castle was Sir Walter Raleigh, who flattered Queen Elizabeth I by renaming the castle Fort Elizabetha. It was Raleigh

who secured a future for Mont Orgueil by blocking plans to demolish it. Elizabeth Castle having taken over the defensive role. The most recent invaders of the castle were the German forces who occupied the Channel Islands during the Second World War, both now featuring gun emplacements, bunkers and observation towers built by captive, mainly Russian, labour.

Earlier this century the maintenance of the castles was handed over to Jersey, and following an approach by the island authorities, the Queen recently agreed to the transfer of ownership.

Over the centuries the castles have seen visits by Charles II, Queen Victoria and King George V. Today, however, the castles' military duties as defenders of the realm come to an end, leaving them to face the more welcome annual invasion by tens of thousands of less regal visitors.



Keeping watch: Mont Orgueil, one of two castles on Jersey whose ownership will today pass from the Crown to the island's people. Photograph: CIPA

You must be serious about Self Assessment

A vital point to remember for everyone who usually receives a tax return form. The first Self Assessment tax year has begun. There's no disputing that to stay ahead of the game you should be keeping a full record of your income and expenses.

What records should you be keeping.....?

They include bank and building society statements and dividend vouchers. If you are self-employed you should also be keeping details of business earnings and receipts, payments to employees or sub-contractors, personal withdrawals, cash books and any other documents that could relate to your tax. Making a record of these details as you go along will make it easier to fill in the new-style Self Assessment tax return which will be sent out next April.

How to avoid penalties.....

There will be a clear timetable setting out what you have to do by when. Keeping to the right dates for sending back your tax return and making payments will help you avoid interest and penalties.

The ball's in your court.....

Find out more, by reading the special leaflet on Self Assessment included with your latest tax return.

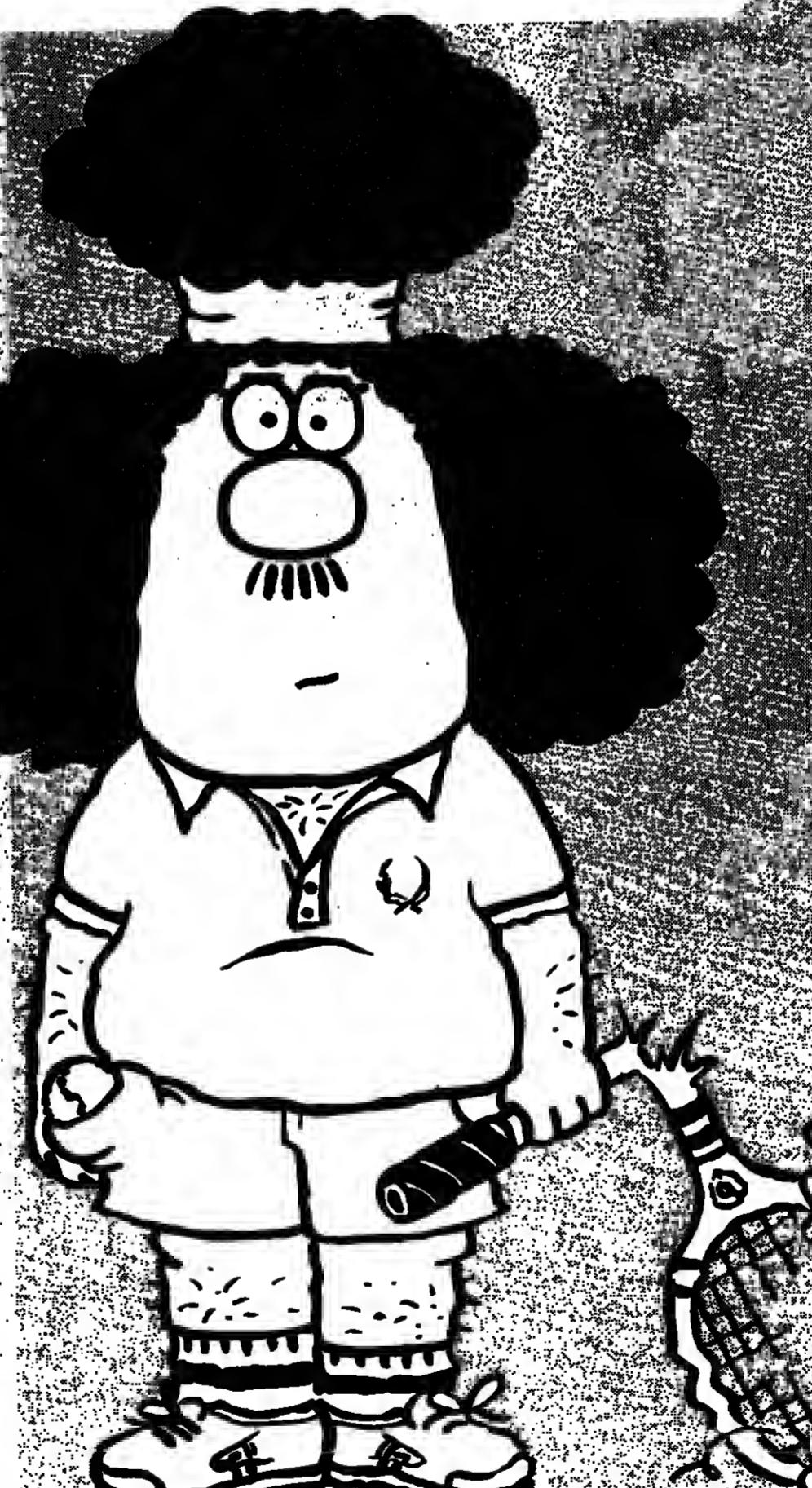
We've also prepared free information guides. If you'd like copies just send us the coupon or telephone our special number anytime. (All calls are charged at the local rate.)

0345 16 15 14
<http://www.open.gov.uk/taxen/taxleaf.htm>

.....24hr.....24hr.....24hr.....24hr.....

Irish Revenue

Self Assessment - a clearer tax system



Please send me more information about Self Assessment. Please tick a box if you are: Self-employed Employed A Pensioner Seeking work

Name (Mr/Mrs/Miss/Ms)

Address

Postcode

0000/0000

PLEASE RETURN COUPON TO: SELF ASSESSMENT PO BOX 555 BRISTOL BS9 5UJ

Glasgow calls time on street drinking

JAMES CUSICK

Glasgow, the former European City of Culture, which has pushed hard in recent years to portray itself as a civilised city where al fresco wine bars sit happily alongside old-fashioned pubs, has decided to take the drastic step of making its streets alcohol-free.

Worried about the growing rate of street assaults and breaches of the peace related to hard drinking, and misuse of beer bottles as the portly weapons of violence, the police and the city's Licensing Board have passed a new by-law which introduces street prohibition and aims to fine offenders up to £100.

The by-law legislation is now in the hands of the Scottish Office and will become law by the autumn.

Since January this year, according to police records, drink-related violent crime in Glasgow has soared, especially in city centre areas where it is up by 50 per cent.

The chairman of the city's Licensing Board, James Coleman, confirmed the creation of a city-wide alcohol-free zone was intended to solve the problem of drink-related crime. However, Mr Coleman does anticipate a problem with the "displacement" of committed street drinkers who will simply move to other areas.

There is also real concern among some city senior officials and police officers at how the ban will be enforced. One city official said: "... no one is quite

sure how this prohibition will work."

Concern over drink-related violence centred on the numerous pubs and clubs in the streets and squares around the city centre. The trend towards the consumption of bottled beer, drunk without a glass, has meant many customers taking their purchase with them as they leave the pub. And if there is subsequent trouble, a ready weapon is to hand.

The ban aims to stop the removal of beer bottles, but how it would apply to citizens lawfully buying bottled or canned alcohol from off-licences, and drinking them peaceably, is something the council and the police will have to address.

Chief Superintendent James Guy said his force's concern was with violent street crime, especially in the Argyle Street, St Enoch's Square and Charing Cross areas of the city, where violent crime involving the use of bottles has increased.

Yesterday, however, away from the city centre, in the park area of Kelvin Grove opposite Glasgow University, impromptu picnics were taking place. Ian and Eileen, two undergraduates, seemed astounded at the prospect of street prohibition. Ian said: "Pardon? A drinks ban? You mean this picnic could become an illegal subversive gathering?"

Eileen, on the other hand, appeared to take her prohibition lessons from the United States of the 1920s. "We'll just have to hide the stuff in the vacuum flask, won't we?" she said.

'Cruel and barbaric' cockfighters jailed

Three men arrested when police and RSPCA officers swooped on a cockfight were yesterday jailed for what were described as "cruel and barbaric" offences.

Stipendiary magistrate Ian Gillespie told them, and three other offenders at Durham City court, that it was "quite incredible that on the eve of the 21st century I should be dealing with such illegal and barbaric practices".

William Ross, 49, of Kelloc, Co Durham, was jailed for four months after admitting cruelty to a cockerel, permitting premises to be used for cockfighting, and possessing equipment for cockfighting use.

Joseph Kelbie, 34, of Newark, Nottinghamshire, and John Hawthorn, 42, of Murton, Co Durham, were sentenced to 10 weeks and eight weeks respectively after admitting assistance in cockfighting. All three were banned for life from owning cockerels. Kelbie's offence, the magistrate said, was aggravated by the fact that he took four birds to fight and had his eight-year-old son with him.

Thomas Waugh, 32, David Little, 34, and John Bell, 27, all from Co Durham, admitted being present at a cockfight. Bell was fined £800, and Waugh and Little £200 each, plus costs.

All six pleaded guilty at a hearing last month.

Renewing your home insurance in July or August and want to save money?

If you are 50 or over call free!

0800 414 525

ext.3537

Lines open Monday to Friday

9am - 6pm, Saturdays 9am - 1pm

Days & hours of service are subject to change. Please call for more information about services provided by other Saga companies and may provide services to other companies to enable them to do so.

SAGA
Services Ltd

Le Shuttle 150

news

Students count cost of study: a £3,000 debt

FRAN ABRAMS
Education Correspondent

Students owe an average of almost £2,000 in loans and overdrafts, a rise of more than 30 per cent on last year, according to a survey published today.

The fifth annual Barclays Student Debt Survey shows that the amount owed by the average undergraduate has doubled since 1992. Two-thirds

of the money is borrowed through the Government's student loan scheme; the rest comes from banks, parents and credit cards.

Most students now think they will be £3,000 in debt by the time they finish their courses. The full student grant, £1,885 a year for students outside London, has been cut over the past five years, while the loan, £1,385 a year, has increased.

More students now save money before going to university in order to try and avoid getting into debt. Half arrive at university with some money in the bank – an average of £1,074.

More students take part-time jobs to support themselves. This year 32 per cent did so, a 2 per cent rise since last year. On average, they worked 12 hours a week and earned £52.

Researchers who interviewed

almost 1,500 students from 16 universities found that those on maths and science courses were the deepest in debt, while those studying more than one subject owed least. This probably reflected the cost of books and equipment on their courses, Barclays said.

Arts students were less likely than others to have part-time jobs, but were more likely to have chosen their

degree subjects because they were interested in them.

Social science students expected to earn the highest salaries after they graduated, but their expectations were unrealistic, the survey found. They thought they would earn an average of £14,400 a year after graduating, while in fact last year's social science graduates earned an average of £11,700.

Students on vocational courses

earned the most, taking home an annual average of £13,600 in their first jobs.

The researchers said students were becoming increasingly realistic about the debt they were likely to incur while at university. Four out of 10 said they were worried or angry about being in debt, whereas 61 per cent were resigned to it.

More women students than men had jobs, but their hours

tended to be shorter and they earned an average of £46 against £61 for men.

Richard Harvey, head of youth strategy at Barclays, said students had sought to replace shrinking grants with money from a wider range of sources.

"The message coming through the media or from brothers and sisters is that students will be in debt, and that the more they can do to

help themselves, the better. Students are supplementing their incomes by turning to their parents or banks, either as a stop-gap or as a long-term measure," he said.

Douglas Trainer, president of the National Union of Students, said, "This survey proves what we have been saying for some time. A series of grant cuts has left students financially devastated."

Mickey Rourke joins the catwalk for a day, reports Tamsin Blanchard

Britain's designers bring out the stars in Paris

British menswear is making its strongest impact yet on the international fashion scene, as five designers cross the Channel this week to show their collections for spring/summer '97.

Two other British names have already made their mark at the menswear shows in Milan: Katharine Hamnett, and Vivienne Westwood with her wild combinations of traditional tailoring and high-heeled shoes.

On Thursday, Ozwald Boateng, the newest, sharpest tailor on Vigo Street just off Savile Row, led the way with his third bespoke couture collection, a fusion of ready-to-wear designs and traditional tailoring, at the Cirque d'Hiver. The collection took *Aladdin: Impossible* as its theme, the mission in this case being to "keep the crease in your trousers at all costs".

Tom Cruise, star of the film and the man every designer wants to dress, chose to wear a suit by Jigsaw for Men, price less than £200, at the premiere in London on Thursday.

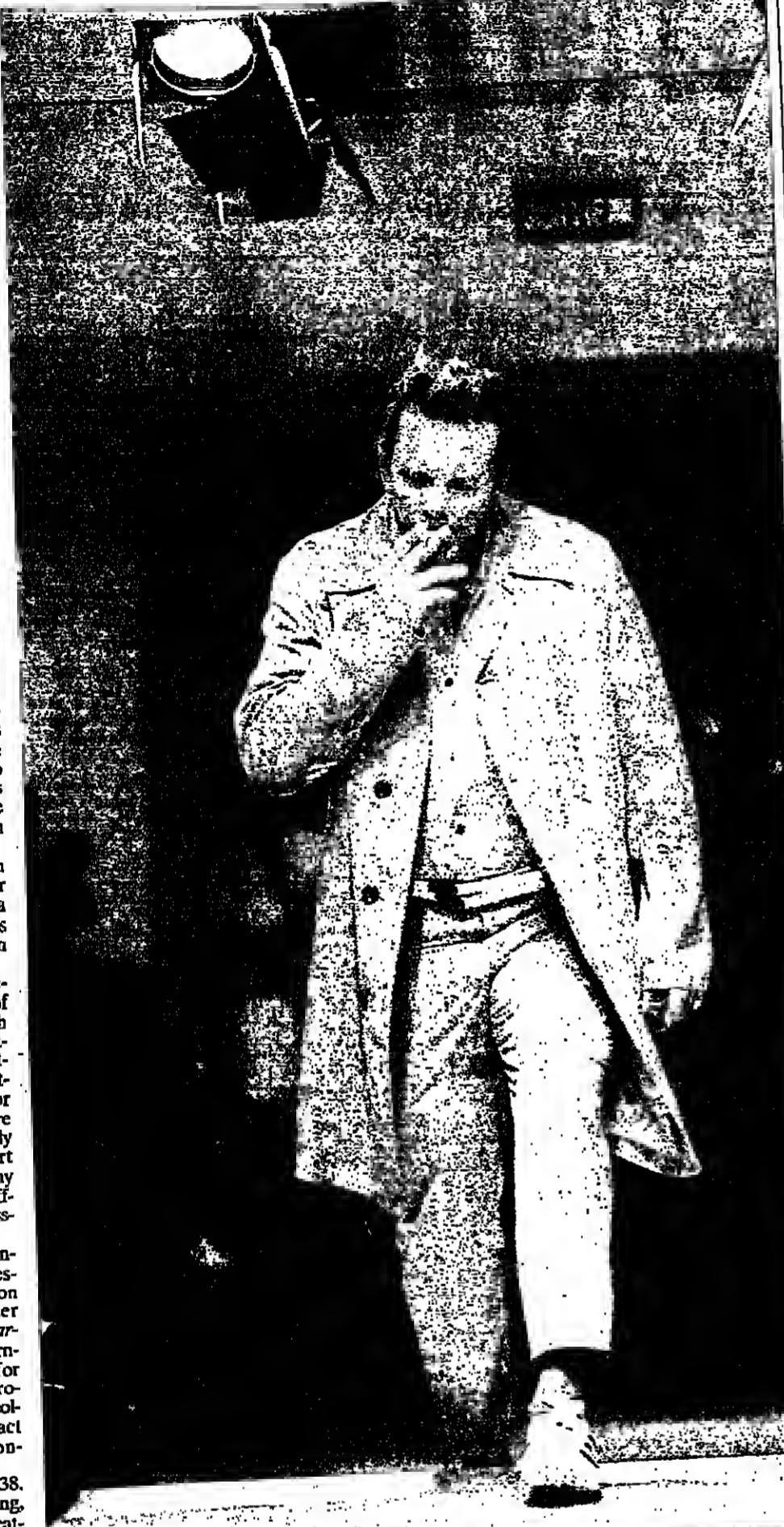
The show attempted to re-enact the opening sequence of the Sixties cult spy series with a burning fuse, a self-combusting tape recorder and a shoot-out. As for the clothes, Boateng's collection is not for casual dressers. His suits are cleanly tailored, and a brightly coloured, unbuttoned shirt worn with a pair of skinny trousers and finished with cuff-links is as close to easy dressing as this designer gets.

John Rocha, the Dublin-based, Hong Kong-born designer, followed with a collection of clothes inspired by another television series, *High Chaparral* – with a touch of Californian beach party thrown in for high summer. He also introduced a less expensive jeans collection designed to attract younger, more fashion-conscious customers.

Yesterday Nigel Curtiss, 38, who was born in Worthing, Sussex, presented his first catwalk show. Mickey Rourke, star of *9 Weeks Part II*, due for release this autumn, modelled the clothes. He has sworn his allegiance to Curtiss since the designer dressed him for the movie. "Nigel is a good friend," Rourke said later, "but I wouldn't have done the show if I didn't like the clothes."

Also modelling for this designer was Joel Cantona, younger brother of Eric and also a French football star.

Nigel Curtiss has built up his name in smart UK menswear boutiques such as Strand in Newcastle and Jones in London's Covent Garden. Shirts sell



Dressed to thrill: American movie star Mickey Rourke models clothes from a collection by Nigel Curtiss on the catwalk in Paris

Photograph: Sheridan Morley

BKCC fashion weekly award for export. The show is sponsored by Eurostar.

On Sunday Joe Casely-Hayford presents his collection, which concentrates on menswear rather than women's wear.

Paul Smith shows his collection today. The designer, who is celebrating his fifth birthday, is the UK's leading designer export, with a turnover last year of £109m. He has 162 Tokyo outlets, and can barely

keep pace with demand. Many UK menswear exporters, well established in continental Europe and Japan, lack a platform for their collections in London.

In September a new trade show, Arena, is to be launched at Olympia as the menswear equivalent of London Fashion Week. Here relatively new names such as Designworks, Burro and Byrne, will show off the commercial and creative success of British menswear.

Union takes stand on 'fat cats'

BARRIE CLEMENT
Labour Editor

Union "fat cats" who stand to receive huge severance packages worth up to £500,000 are threatened by a grassroots revolt.

Two senior Irish officials have left the Amalgamated Engineering and Electrical Union and are urging thousands of members to follow them, while left-wingers are urging activists to set up "democracy committees" against the leadership.

Concern over the stewardship

of the union has mounted since the *Independent* revealed the unprecedented early retirement packages.

Members of the ruling executive have since placed a "gagging order" on Davey Hall, the union's newly-elected president and the only member of the executive not to be covered by the deal.

Activists are furious that a democratically-elected president with a 24,000-vote majority has been prevented from speaking about the severance deal.

cars worth more than £20,000. At the age of 65 they would also draw a full pension.

The deal was worked out to reduce the council from 22 members to nine following the merger of the electricians' and engineers' unions four years ago. It is now down to 13.

While leftist elements in the union are the most vociferous critics of the "hampers" as they are known by executive members, both left-wingers and right-wingers on the ruling council stand to benefit.

PEOPLES PHONE THE UK's LOWEST LINE RENTAL!

We've done it again! Our commitment is to bring you the best possible deal and the highest possible level of service. So we're doing something no-one else is doing. We're making this offer available on **ALL** our analogue phones.

Visit us today for the UK's best deal, the widest choice of phones and absolute peace of mind.

It's why we're the high street's favourite mobile phone specialists.

**UNBELIEVABLE
£11.99
INC VAT
LINE RENTAL!**

**NEC
P8**

- 27 hours standby
- 100 mins talktime
- Clock and calendar functions
- 99 Alpha numeric memory

**USUAL PRICE
£9.99
WITH VOUCHER
FREE!**



THE PEOPLES PHONE ADVANTAGE

- ★ Absolute peace of mind with our "14 Day Money Back" and "No Price Rise" guarantees.
- ★ Our unique Call Quota™ service – a call charge limit guarantees protection from unexpectedly high bills.
- ★ Our Lifetime Warranty option – peace of mind if your phone should be damaged, lost or stolen.
- ★ Long term after sales service through our fully trained specialist staff.

CONNECTED HOME
**£10
OFF
ANY MOBILE PHONE
WITH THIS VOUCHER**
One voucher per transaction while stocks last.
Valid at Peoples Phone until 6.7.96
This voucher cannot be used with any other offer.
IND 67

180 STORES NATIONWIDE

FOR YOUR NEAREST STORE, OR 0345 10 11 12 **PEOPLES**
P H O N E

CALLS WILL BE CHARGED AT LOCAL RATES ON A BT PHONE

The offer is subject to availability, status and a new standard airtime contract of 12 months with 90 days notice thereafter. Customers will need to provide a valid credit card.

**Le summer getaway.
from £49 return
and guaranteed Lowest DUTY FREE PRICES.***

equipment required



Le Shuttle • Folkestone → Calais • For details of terms and conditions and all ticket purchases call 0990 353535 or your travel agent

*Le Shuttle guarantee the lowest Duty Free prices across the Channel. If you find the identical Duty Free product for sale at a lower price elsewhere, within 21 days from the date you purchased from Le Shuttle we'll refund the difference. Extra charges, travel and prices of products that are not standard duty free may be excluded. Please note that the airline is not responsible for any loss or damage to your luggage.

politics

Pay review shows up the 'shirker' MPs

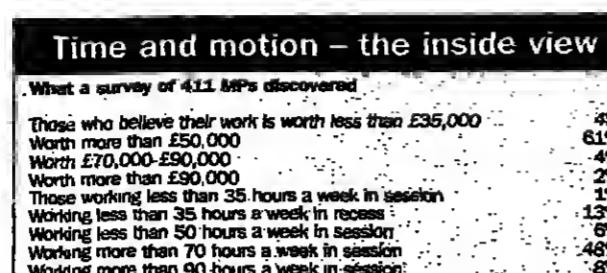
ANTHONY BEVINS
Political Editor

Four MPs have confessed that they are working less than 35 hours a week for their current salary of £34,085.

During Commons holidays – which accounted for 17 weeks in the last full parliamentary year – more than 50 MPs said they worked less than a 35-hour week.

As MPs prepare to vote themselves a pay rise in the Commons on Wednesday, with a choice between John Major's call for a restrained 3 per cent and the 26 per cent recommended by the Senior Salaries Review Board, some backbenchers might be embarrassed by the revelation that colleagues do so little for their money.

But questionnaires filled in by MPs as part of the review body examination shows that 1 per cent of the 411 backbenchers who replied volunteered that they worked less than 35 hours



a week – even when the House was in full session.

The self-confessed shirkers are likely to be among the 28 per cent of MPs who did not spend any time at all attending select or standing committees, which carry out the critical scrutiny of Whitehall work and the line-by-line examination of legislation.

Among the more assiduous, more than 30 MPs said they worked more than 90 hours a week when the Commons was in session.

The review body says: "For constitutional and practical rea-

sons we have discounted the possibility of performance-related pay for MPs, whatever its utility may be elsewhere." Having supported the system for the rest of the public service, Parliament is to be excused.

But the report does add that the review body will "consider further ... whether to make recommendations on the structure of additional remuneration for holders of certain positions of additional responsibility in the House."

That could mean a cash bonus for Opposition front-



On track: Tony Blair tours the tunnel built for the Heathrow-Paddington express rail link. Photograph: Peter Macdiarmid

Blair puts out the welcome mat for Tory defectors

Voters are 'coming home', the Labour leader claims. Anthony Bevins reports

able, 147,697 people called in the hope of speaking with Mr Blair.

The calls were friendly, but some obviously had concerns, he said yesterday. "They want to be sure that New Labour is real. They want to know that the policies in our document are the policies they will get. I can assure them, they are."

Having spent the morning at Heathrow Airport, during which he toured the tunnel for the new Heathrow-Paddington express rail link, Mr Blair went to Gloucester, a Tory marginal, with John Prescott, the deputy Labour leader.

Mr Blair told a meeting in the constituency that the Conservatives represented "the politics of fear", and he said they would fight both a "dirty and negative" election campaign.

Yesterday, the Conservatives placed full-page advertisements

saying that the "magic tax" was falling apart. It would not raise anything like the amount Labour hoped for, he said, and if it did, it would have to be financed by customers, shareholders and reduced investment.

Kenneth Clarke, the Chancellor of the Exchequer, attacked the pledge to finance a cut in infant-school class sizes by using money saved from the assisted-places scheme.

"The most they would save would be £57m," he said. "It would cost more than £180m to cut class sizes to 30 or under for 5-, 6- and 7-year-olds."

Ministers have ordered statisticians from the Department for Education and Employment to work on those calculations, but Andrew Smith, Labour's Treasury spokesman, said the estimates were based on the ministers' version of Labour policy – which alleged immediate abolition of assisted places, rather than the phase-out that Labour has promised.

That pledge attracted a welter of attacks from leading ministers, with Michael Heseltine, the Deputy Prime Minister,

Redwood rounds on Euro court

The Tory leadership contender

John Redwood yesterday warned that people would be breaking the law by working more than 48 hours a week, if an imminent European Court case enforces British implementation of a Brussels directive, writes Anthony Bevins.

In the Commons on Thursday, five Tory Eurosceptics flagged their acute interest in the issue with demands for a full-scale debate if the European Court rules against a Government challenge to the directive next week.

The Prime Minister reminded the House that he intended to fight for the strict letter of the Maastricht agreement, under

which it had been accepted that the social protocol – which Britain argues, covers the 48-hour working week – would not be smuggled into law under the cover of health and safety provisions of the treaty. In a veiled hint of further, beef-style non-cooperation ahead, he added: "Our colleagues in Europe need not expect that we will reach further agreements at the next intergovernmental conference unless, at that conference, they are prepared to restore the agreement that I reached at Maastricht."

However, Mr Redwood yesterday called for a tougher British stance, saying: "The Government should now look

at other contingency plans. Britain should be prepared to keep this directive away from our shores, whatever the court may say."

He told a Conservative meeting in West Derbyshire that the working week directive would ban or limit the amount of overtime people could work.

Far from protecting people at work, he said, "it would make it illegal for them to work longer hours for more money. An employer would have to say 'No' to an employee who wanted extra overtime."

"It would be an especially cruel blow to workers in seasonal employment, who need to work long hours when the opportunity is available. It would also mean some of us would have to break the law if we wanted to carry on working more than 48 hours a week in order to do a good job."

The Tory Eurosceptics plan to launch a national campaigning group at the Conservative Party conference this autumn. The new body – Conservatives Against a Federal Europe – is designed to take advantage of what the Tory dissidents see as the growing tide of public opposition to closer EU ties. It will be unveiled by the Westminster Group of Eight former whips Tory MPs at their fringe meeting at the party conference in Bournemouth, in October.

To thousands of children worldwide, it's a lifeline

The Save the Children Visa card is a simple yet effective way to raise money to give children the chance of a better future at no extra cost to yourself.

Every time someone opens an account, The Co-operative Bank donates £5 to Save the Children. That's enough to feed a malnourished child in Bangladesh for almost a month.

For every £100 spent using the card, Save the Children receives a further 25p donation for its work with children in the UK and overseas.

The card offers you significant benefits too:

You will never be charged an annual fee for the rest of your life – guaranteed. All you have to do is use the card at least ten times a year*.

You can transfer the balance from any existing credit card you hold and pay it off at a preferential rate of interest (1% per month 12.6% APR variable).

The rate for purchases is 1.5% per month (19.5% APR variable) when you pay by direct debit or 1.65% per month (21.7% APR variable) for other methods of payment.

The card is welcome at over 12 million outlets worldwide, offers savings of up to 15% on holidays and up to £25,000 free travel accident insurance.

To find out more, return the coupon or call free on:

0800 002 006

When the operator asks, please quote reference 006



Credit facilities are provided by The Co-operative Bank plc, 1 Balloon Street, Manchester M4 6PF and are subject to status. Written quotations are available on request. The Bank may decline any application. Credit is not available to minors. Photograph by Steve Lomax, courtesy of Sobe - Acting with Care partnership with Save the Children.

Post FREE to:

Save the Children Visa Card, FREEPOST MR8192, Manchester M1 9AZ.

Please send me further details of the Save the Children Visa Card.

Name _____

Address _____

Postcode _____

Save the Children

Registered charity no. 213890

MIS No 006

SALE STARTS MONDAY

Sanderson Carisbrook, Rose & Peony ready made curtains	33% OFF
Roller Blinds selected lines	50% OFF
Anna French selected fabrics	50% OFF
G.P. & J. Baker selected fabrics	50% OFF
Blendworth selected fabrics	50% OFF
Hico ready made curtains & cushions	50% OFF

UP TO
50% OFF
SOFT FURNISHINGS

Items subject to availability.
OPENING HOURS:
Monday 8th July 10am - 8pm
Tuesday 9th July 10am - 8pm
From Wednesday 10th July - normal hours apply

SELFRIDGES
Oxford Street London 0171-629 1234

Damask selected fabrics	50% OFF
Tapestry cushions selected lines	50% OFF
Malabar cushions	50% OFF
Velvet cushions selected lines	50% OFF
Nets and Voiles selected lines	50% OFF
Tracks and Poles selected lines	20% OFF

Rushdie's love story wins a sweetheart deal

JOJO MOYES

Salman Rushdie's next novel will be a love story, billed as the adventures of an Indian Orpheus in the Western underworld of rock 'n' roll – although the author said yesterday that it was "not at all autobiographical".

The Ground Beneath Her Feet, due for publication in 1999 will be a story of "love, death and music". It will be the seventh novel by the author, who has lived in hiding since becoming the subject of a *fatwah* in 1989. Jonathan Cape have bought the rights to publish the book at a sum rumoured to be £750,000.

Mr Rushdie said it would be a departure from his previous novels: "It's a love story... I felt this book brought what I'd previously been doing to a point. One of the things I most liked was being able to write a series of love stories and put a love story right in the centre."

Mr Rushdie described how his involuntary confinement had not affected his ability to write.

"I more or less do it like an office job," he said. "And I'm not very good early in the morning."

He denied that living under a persistent threat had affected the tone of his writing. "Everyone told me that *The Moor's Last Sigh* has been the funniest thing I've ever written," he says.

Mr Rushdie, who on Thursday night gave a sell-out talk in Oxford, yesterday conducted his first open-book signing in seven years, autographing perhaps copies of his novel for a queue of approximately 200 fans at Dilions book store in Gower Street, central London.

Staff at the bookstore said that at one stage the book, which has sold more than 130,000 copies in hardback, was the only thing being bought in the shop.

He spent an hour chatting to customers and posing for snaps under the watchful gaze of four security men. The signing was the first without tickets since the *fatwah* was issued, following publication of his book *The Satanic Verses*.

Despite the apparently re-

laxed tone of his public appearances, Mr Rushdie said he had been advised that the *fatwah* was still very much in place. The European Union campaign to remove the threat against him was still being pursued "as enthusiastically as ever," he said.

"But I think it's important to show that the business of literature is not derailed by this kind of threat and that writers will write, booksellers will sell, and readers will read, and that goes on," he said.

Also at the signing was Caroline Michel, who published Mr Rushdie's paperbacks at Vintage. She revealed that the author was also busy editing a compilation of Indian writing from the last 50 years, to coincide with the 50th anniversary of Indian independence. *The Vintage Book of Indian Writing 1947-1997* will be published next summer.



Out and about: Salman Rushdie taking a break during his first open book-signing since the *fatwah* yesterday

Photograph: Philip Meech

Wet blanket for Mackintosh

Sir Camerino Mackintosh opens the biggest blockbuster musical of the year next week when *Martin Guerre* premieres on Wednesday. The show, which has some of the most hi-tech computerised wizardry yet seen in a musical, hit problems this week. I was among the 1,600 people turned away from the preview on Tuesday which was cancelled owing to "a fault in the three-phase electrical distribution system". Though an alternative date was offered, I feel that these problems should be sorted out in rehearsals before preview tickets go on sale to the public, whose fares and babysitting costs are not refunded.

Roger Daltrey's "black eye", which saw him sporting a black eye patch at the Hyde Park concert last weekend, was much more than a black eye. When Gary Glitter caught Daltrey with a swinging microphone stand the night before the concert, Daltrey was unconscious for five minutes. He suffered bleeding in the eye and has a fractured eye socket. But I'm told that he did not suffer from a sense of humour failure.

Artspeople
with David Lister

One aspect of Genista McIntosh's appointment as chief executive of the Royal Opera House that appears to have gone unnoticed is that three of our four national companies will from next year be run by people who trained and achieved high office at the Royal Shakespeare Company. What influence will their common RSC heritage have on the running of the arts? Merely, of course, that they will all dress in black leather and continually be asking for more money.

When his distraught wife rushed on to the stage and tried to rouse him, shouting "Who are you, who are you, tell me who you are," he replied: "Mick Jagger."

Susan Ferrier Brades has been appointed director of the Hayward Gallery in London. Ms Brades, an American, has been deputy director at the Gallery for three years.



CARIBBEAN
IN SUMMER
'97 FROM
£449*

Unbelievable, but true - and that's a full 14 nights. This is just one of the exotic destinations in the new Airtours Far and Away 1997 brochure - with Airtours prices guaranteed to be the lowest. Like for like, it's far and away the best value you'll find.

Airtours

BOOK NOW AND SAVE 13% AT THOMAS COOK. CALL INTO YOUR LOCAL SHOP OR CALL THE CREDIT CARD BOOKING LINE ON 0900 777 555

Airtours Holidays Ltd acting as agent for Thomas Cook ATOL 1179 ATOL 6888. See Airtours Far and Away brochure for terms and conditions of price guarantee. *£449 price per person, based on 95.12% discount applied to the cost of the holiday being paid within 10 weeks before departure. Deposit required. Minimum stay 7 nights. Subject to certain conditions, payment in full required at time of booking. A £2 charge per person payable to all travel related credit card bookings.

THE FIRST WORK OF ART DESIGNED BY AN ACCOUNTANT.



How can it be art, when there's
no pain, no suffering?

You simply drive out of the showroom

in a brand new car, having paid

for only half of it and don't come back for

two years, when you pay

ESCORT 1.8 LX 5dr [†]		Typical example
Mileage (per annum)	12,000	
Recommended Retail Price	£12,625.00	
Estimated on the Road Price*	£13,260.00	
Deposit (%)	50%	
Initial Payment	£6,630.00	
Balance	£0.00	
Total Charge for Credit	£13,260.00	
Total Credit Price	£13,260.00	
Term (months)	25	
Monthly Payments	£0.00	
Optional Final Purchase Payment ^{††}	£6,630.00	
(Minimum Guaranteed Future Value) of	0.0%	
APR		

for the other half

In between, you pay absolutely nothing.

No interest, no repayments.

You can even give it back at any time.

A masterpiece in simplicity.

For more details, call the number below.

0345 346 347



Subject to availability. Applies to Escort 1.8 and 1.6 LX models only registered between 1/6/96 and 31/12/96. *On the road price based on manufacturer recommended retail price at the time of going to press, VAT at 17.5% and £635 cover charge. **APR charges +2 months' hire. Ford Credit Europe plc, PO Box 46, Brookwood, Surrey GU13 3AR. Guarantees and indemnities may be required. Finance is provided subject to status to over 18s only. Certain categories of business users are ineligible. Optional final purchase price is extra to APR.

Russian generals sent to Coventry

Christopher Bellamy joins a novel course on democracy and the military

This week's Russian election, which returned Boris Yeltsin as president, temporarily interrupted the studies of nine students on an unusual course at Coventry University. The students: two Russian generals, five colonels and two military interpreters.

The aim of the course is for former Soviet officers to learn how democracies run their armed forces. The idea is to prepare the way for setting up a centre to study democracy at the Military University in Moscow.

On Wednesday proceedings were disrupted as the students went to vote at the Russian Embassy at Kensington Palace Gardens, in London. As they resumed the course, they claimed to be satisfied with the result. "It's a victory for the reform process," said Colonel-General Yuri Chesnokov, a former air

defence commander and one of the two generals on the scheme.

"We don't support Yeltsin personally," said Colonel Igor Lipsky, from the Moscow Military Re-training Institute, also a former air defence officer. He now prepares people leaving the Russian armed forces for civilian life. "We went to vote for the course of reform. Yeltsin made many mistakes as president. We very much hope that after the election other people will be involved in the reform process."

Colonel Lipsky knows General Alexander Lebed, now Mr Yeltsin's deputy with vast powers in national security and a likely future president. "We met not long ago. Many of his ideas are wise. He has run on the basic problems of national security, both internal and external. He's a good candidate to



replace Yeltsin and solve real problems."

The course was Coventry's own initiative, based on the university's close links with Moscow University. The university obtained funding under the EU Tacis programme to promote democracy in the former Soviet Union.

Ken Matthews, the academic

director, explained that the aim is not to lecture the Russians on how to run their country. "We're not telling people how to run their own communities. It's a matter of facilitating that," he said.

Once the Coventry course is complete, the centre will be set up in Moscow with all the necessary information technology

and supplied with reading materials relating to democratic control of the armed forces. A joint team from the university and the Russian group on the course will run further courses for more Russian officers. Eventually it is hoped the centre in Moscow will become self-supporting.

"Studying the British experience is particularly interesting," said Major General Nikolai Chaldymov, of the Russian commission on human rights.

"We will of course study other democratic countries - the US, Germany and France and some of the smaller ones."

Yesterday's guest lecturer was Michael Mates, the former Northern Ireland minister and

a former chairman of the House of Commons Defence Committee, talking about the use of armed forces in support of the civil power. The debate quickly turned to Northern Ireland and Chechnya. "There are many similarities between the early stages of Northern Ireland and Chechnya," claimed Igor Solodov, an interpreter. And

General studies: Michael Mates (left) with Col-Gen Yuri Chesnokov and Major Gen Nikolai Chaldymov

Photograph: Peter Macdiarmid

then, with charming innocence: "What would you say eventually put the conflicts on such a different track?"

Colonel Svetlana Khmelevskaya, the only woman on the course, asked whether there were any contradictions between military and civil law in Britain. Mr Mates explained that soldiers were subject to civil law at all times and that military law only related to internal disciplinary matters. So a soldier who felt he had been unfairly treated could take his commanding officer to court, said Vacheslav Seregin, a military lawyer who had refused to serve in Chechnya. Not quite, said Mr Mates.

Gen Chaldymov said all the lectures so far had been interesting, but that on the role of the media by a television correspondent had the most impact. "It was so practical," said Gen Chesnokov. "You have all this information coming in from every direction, but in the end it's what you do with it and how you transmit."

The Russian students were impressed by the ability of modern technology to achieve "transparency" and the impossibility of "controlling" the media in the fashion of past wars. But old habits seem to die hard. One of the participants' main questions: how to jam satellite transmissions by journalists reporting on a conflict.

Yeltsin continues purge of the army

TONY BARBER
Moscow

President Boris Yeltsin prepared the ground for a new purge of Russia's armed forces yesterday after a parliamentary report implicated a number of prominent generals in an ever-widening circle of corruption scandals. Most of those named were closely associated with Pavel Grachev, the former defence minister whom Mr Yeltsin sacrificed midway through his re-election campaign.

Seven generals were fired soon after Mr Grachev's dismissal, but the details of flagrant corruption were kept under wraps until after Mr Yeltsin's victory last Wednesday. The armed forces shake-up, accompanied by the dismissal last month of the head of the former KGB and Mr Yeltsin's personal security chief, appeared to boost the position of Alexander Lebed, the new national security chief.

The charges of high-level corruption were made by Lev Rokhlin, a general and a member of the pro-government Our Home is Russia party in the State Duma (lower house of parliament). He accused Mr Grachev

of "wallowing in corruption". Whilst the charges against Mr Grachev came as no surprise, the political implications of a full-scale clear-out of the army's upper ranks are less obvious. At first sight it would appear to strengthen the hand of Mr Lebed, but other longer-serving members of Mr Yeltsin's administration have indicated that they think he has enough power.

General Rokhlin told parliament that some of the most serious abuses involved a construction company, Lyukon, which was contracted after 1993 to build homes for servicemen.

He said a general named Yuri Rodionov signed a request to give defence ministry credits to Lyukon although the company had not met a deadline for a 25-storey building. The request was also signed by General Konstantin Kobels, chief inspector of the armed forces, whose son was a co-founder of Lyukon.

General Rokhlin said one general had transferred £23.1m (£15.5m) from ammunition sales in Bulgaria to a German bank. Another "formed a battalion of slaves ... to earn money for the construction of dachas", including four for himself.

Here is the long range forecast

With 190 pages of the leading names in outdoor clothing and equipment we forecast that, come rain or shine, our brochure will have just what you're looking for.

You can explore the latest Bergans jackets, Lowe Alpine fleeces, Rohan trousers, Tekwear, Gul wet suits, Timberland boots and much, much more at the turn of a page.

And the outlook for equipment is equally bright with advanced sleeping bags, high performance tents, rucksacks and a range of sunglasses that put others in the shade.

Not to mention Swiss Army knives, Maglite torches, cool boxes, a world of maps and guides and much more besides. From head to foot, from wet to dry, from valley to mountain, order it direct from Cotswold - The Outdoor People.

Please send me your free catalogue
Name _____
Address _____
Postcode _____ Telephone _____

COTSWOLD
THE OUTDOOR PEOPLE

SEND TO FREEPOST (GL21), CIRENCESTER, GLOS GL7 5BR
TELEPHONE: 0125 591020

BRANCHES AT CIRENCESTER, LONDON, MANCHESTER,
SOUTHAMPTON, ST ALBANS, READING AND BETWS-Y-COED

Dixons

THE HIGH STREET'S WIDEST RANGE OF PC PERIPHERALS

You'll find the High Street's biggest range of PC Peripherals at Dixons - everything from fax modems and memory upgrades to the latest mouse controls and joysticks. Make sure you get the very most out of your multimedia PC!

FAX MODEMS FROM UNDER £80

REVEAL 14.4

INTERNAL FAX MODEM

- 14.4 bits per second data transfer.
- Includes communication software.

Was £89.99.

Dixons Deal

£79.99

REVEAL 14.4

EXTERNAL FAX MODEM

Easy external connection.

Was £99.99.

Dixons Deal

£89.99

MOUSE CONTROLS FROM UNDER £10

DIGITAL EDGE

WIRELESS MOUSE

High precision tracking.

Was £9.99.

Dixons Deal

£9.99

MICROSOFT

HOME MOUSE AND SOFTWARE

Ergonomic design.

Was £24.99.

Dixons Deal

£24.99

4Mb MEMORY

UPGRADE

72 pin non parity.

Was £129.99.

In-store Price £79.99.

DIXON'S VOUCHER PRICE

£59.99

8Mb MEMORY

UPGRADE

72 pin non parity.

Was £199.99.

In-store Price £159.99.

DIXON'S VOUCHER PRICE

£119.99

SAVE UP TO £80

ON MEMORY UPGRADES

With THIS VOUCHER

HURRY! OFFERS END MONDAY

DIXON'S VOUCHER

£80

EXPAND YOUR PC'S PERFORMANCE

CREATIVE LABS

QUAD-SPEED CD-ROM DRIVE

Includes software.

Was £59.99.

DIXON'S VOUCHER PRICE

£29.99

KINETIC

KEYBOARD AND MOUSE

Ergonomic design.

Was £29.99.

DIXON'S VOUCHER PRICE

£29.99

QUICKSHOT

SKYMASTER JOYSTICK

Ergonomic design for precise control.

Was £29.99.

DIXON'S VOUCHER PRICE

£29.99

TRUST

EXTRA 16 PLUS SOUND CARD

2 line buttons for ease of use.

Was £59.99.

DIXON'S VOUCHER PRICE

£8.99

WIDE RANGE OF TV AND SOUND CARDS

HAUPPAGE WIN TV/PRISMA CARD

Full colour TV/video card with Teletext.

Was £199.99.

DIXON'S VOUCHER PRICE

£199.99

PC LINE

DISK BOX

Perfect for storage.

Was £3.99.

DIXON'S VOUCHER PRICE

£1.99

ALISOP

ACCESSORY PACK

Includes 80 capacity disk box.

Was £24.99.

DIXON'S VOUCHER PRICE

£12.49

LASERLINE

CD-ROM WALLET

Holds 24 CD-ROMs.

Was £13.99.

DIXON'S VOUCHER PRICE

£13.99

FREE

PC LINE DISK WALLET

With any box of diskettes.

Was £19.99.

DIXON'S VOUCHER PRICE

£19.99

DIXONS

There's a great deal going on

PC ACCESSORIES FROM UNDER £2

PC LINE HD DISKS 40 PACK

international

Poland presses Nato to speed up its act

ADRIAN BRIDGE
Warsaw

Just two days after Boris Yeltsin's re-election as Russian President, Aleksander Kwasniewski, his Polish counterpart, yesterday set off for a five-day trip to the United States to press for speedy clarification of his country's bid to join Nato.

Although he himself is a former Communist, Mr Kwasniewski has successfully reinvented himself as a Western-style social democrat and was quick to hail Mr Yeltsin's victory over his Communist rival Gennady Zyuganov as good news for Poland and its prospects for joining the military alliance.

In a series of meetings with President Bill Clinton and other senior American officials, he will call for decisive action on the issue now that the victory of Mr Yeltsin - who is slightly less opposed to Nato enlargement

than Mr Zyuganov - appears to have opened a window of opportunity. "For a long time we have been asked to be patient because of the Russian election," said Marek Siwiec, a presidential adviser in Warsaw.

"Now... we want to know what the real timetable for enlargement will be."

Since defeating Lech Wałęsa in last November's presidential election, Mr Kwasniewski has sought to reassure Western leaders that Poland remains committed to joining both Nato and the European Union and that it could make a positive contribution to both. "This [US] visit should show that governments can change, presidents can change, people can change, but [Polish] policy does not change," he said.

It is an open secret that Poland is among the front-runners from central and east Europe for Nato membership, possibly as

early as 1999. The country's cause has recently received a boost in the form of an unexpected strong endorsement from Bob Dole, Mr Clinton's Republican rival in the November US presidential election. According to Clinton of dragging his feet on enlargement, Mr Dole has singled out Poland, Hungary and the Czech Republic as all being ready for Nato membership now and called for their speedier integration.

Polish officials privately doubt whether a President Dole would bring them into the alliance any sooner. But they are glad that the issue is being aired in the US. "The more discussion on the subject the better," a Foreign Ministry source said. "We want people to see that Poland is not some sort of desert... there are military installations here, we can fulfil military missions (in Bosnia for example) and bringing us into

Nato won't be as expensive as some fear."

While in Washington, Mr Kwasniewski will meet the Defense Secretary, William Perry, to discuss Poland's planned purchase of a fleet of jet fighters, possibly from Lockheed Martin or McDonnell Douglas, in a deal which could be worth some \$3.5bn (£1.9-3.2bn).

He is also planning a series of meetings with US Jewish leaders to discuss a \$100m plan to turn the former Nazi concentration camp at Auschwitz into a fully protected zone and a centre of learning.

Polish-Jewish relations plummeted earlier this year when it emerged that a local developer wanted to build a supermarket and fast-food outlet right next to the Auschwitz camp gates. Mr Kwasniewski quickly condemned the supermarket proposal, thereby helping to ensure it was blocked.



Clash of opinion: Tempers flare when anti-immigration protesters meet defenders of immigration rights outside a federal building in the Westwood area of Los Angeles, California. Photograph: AP

Legal & General Unit Trusts

INITIAL CHARGES

From now on, you don't have to pay
to buy into a unit trust
ABOLISHED

From now on, there are no initial charges on any Legal & General unit trust products. For every pound you give us we invest a full pound, unlike most unit trust companies who, after initial charges, only invest around 95p.

That means you can now enjoy the growth potential of all, rather than just part of your investment. It also means that to compete with our unit trusts, our competitors now need to perform around 5% better than us.

No mean task when you consider that the FT-SE-A All-Share Index, the index tracked by our UK Index Trust has risen by 86%* over the last five years. That's 28%** higher than the average unit trust. Or that our UK Recovery Trust, one of the top

performers, is rated AA by Fund Research. With some of the most competitive management charges in the industry and no withdrawal fees after 5 years you can see why Legal & General is firmly established as the source of low cost, high performance investments.

If you want to find out more, call us now or complete the coupon, we'll send you full details on all our no initial charge unit trust range.

CALL 0800 11 66 22 FREE
7 DAYS A WEEK 8AM TO 10PM PLEASE QUOTE REF UB601

Past performance is not necessarily a guide to future performance. Both capital and income values may go down as well as up and you may not get back the amount you invested. All investments are subject to risk at 7.79%. *Source: Mirrapol 3.69. **Source: Mirrapol 3.69. Legal & General (Unit Trust Managers) Limited. Registered in England No. 1009418. Registered Office: Temple Court, 11 Queen Victoria Street, London EC4N 4TF. Registered by the Personal Investments Authority.

Post to: Legal & General (Unit Trust Managers) Limited, FREEPOST KT4 474, Kingston-upon-Thames Surrey KT2 5BR. Please send me details on Legal & General's range of unit trusts.

Name _____
Address _____
Postcode _____ Telephone _____

If you already have a unit trust investment, please tick here. We never make your name and address available to unconnected organisations. We will occasionally tell you about other products and services offered by ourselves and other legal and general companies. Please tick this box if you would prefer not to receive this information.


Legal & General

Madman looks set to win over Ecuador voters

PHIL DAVISON
Latin America Correspondent

"Vote for the madman. Vote for the clown." Not your average presidential campaign slogan. But then, Abdala Bucaram is not your average candidate.

Mr Bucaram, a 44-year-old former Olympic fencer who could become President of Ecuador in elections tomorrow, has no qualms about using his nicknames. He prefers "el loco", the madman, because, he says, "crazy people speak from the heart and see with their soul".

His opponents have a stronger nickname for him, "Hitler", but that's really only because of his moustache. Mr Bucaram, a populist heading his own party, was running slightly ahead of Jaime Nebot, 49, a conservative lawyer, on the eve of tomorrow's two-man run-off. Mr Nebot, of the Social Christian Party, beat Mr Bucaram by 29 per cent to 27 per cent in the original ballot on 19 May, necessitating another round of voting. The conservative incumbent, Sixto Duran-Ballen, is constitutionally barred from running again.

"I am the madman who is going to be your President," Mr Bucaram - like his opponent, of Lebanese extraction - told supporters in a rap-like pre-election speech backed by a rock band. "Power to the poor." Many Ecuadorans consider

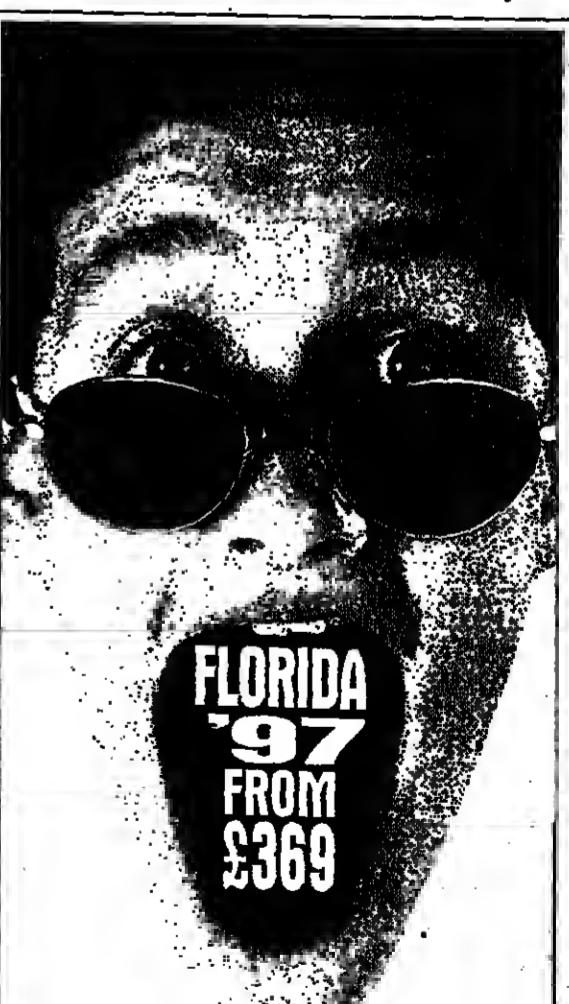
tomorrow's decision as "a choice between AIDS and cholera". Mr Nebot, dubbed "the Anti-Christ" by his opponent, is perhaps best known for trying to whip a fellow congressman and threatening to urinate on him.

"Bucaram reached this runoff with the votes of pimps, prostitutes and potheads," Mr Nebot told his supporters.

The currency, the sucro, has slipped in recent days with the prospect that Mr Bucaram, who ran in the hurdles for Ecuador at the 1972 Munich Olympics, might soon be running the country. With strong support in the shanty towns around Guayaquil, he has pledged to reverse free-market economic reforms pushed through by Mr Duran-Ballen.

"Maids should have their salary tripled. Society matrons with their perfumed armpits should know what it's like to wash their own knickers," he said in a campaign speech. He was elected mayor of Guayaquil in 1984 after telling slum-dwellers he understood perfectly "the urge... to strip the paintwork of every Mercedes in sight". His popularity slipped when he banned mini-skirts in the city.

Mr Bucaram has spent half the last 10 years in exile, once after criticising the Ecuadorean army for being "good for nothing but marching in parades" and once after allegations of embezzlement while mayor.



This can't be real - but it is. 14 nights Fly Drive in the Sunshine State just £369*. When we say for like - we mean it. Read all about it in the brand new Airtours Florida 1997 brochure - now available at your local branch of Co-op Travelcare today.

Airtours

BOOK NOW AND SAVE 13% AT CO-OP TRAVELCARE. CALL INTO YOUR LOCAL BRANCH OR RING THE BOOKING CENTRE ON 0161 827 1030 - OPEN 7 DAYS A WEEK.
Airtours Holidays Ltd acting as agent for Airtours plc ATOL 1270 ATOL 1280 ATOL 1281 ATOL 1282 ATOL 1283 ATOL 1284 ATOL 1285 ATOL 1286 ATOL 1287 ATOL 1288 ATOL 1289 ATOL 1290 ATOL 1291 ATOL 1292 ATOL 1293 ATOL 1294 ATOL 1295 ATOL 1296 ATOL 1297 ATOL 1298 ATOL 1299 ATOL 1300 ATOL 1301 ATOL 1302 ATOL 1303 ATOL 1304 ATOL 1305 ATOL 1306 ATOL 1307 ATOL 1308 ATOL 1309 ATOL 1310 ATOL 1311 ATOL 1312 ATOL 1313 ATOL 1314 ATOL 1315 ATOL 1316 ATOL 1317 ATOL 1318 ATOL 1319 ATOL 1320 ATOL 1321 ATOL 1322 ATOL 1323 ATOL 1324 ATOL 1325 ATOL 1326 ATOL 1327 ATOL 1328 ATOL 1329 ATOL 1330 ATOL 1331 ATOL 1332 ATOL 1333 ATOL 1334 ATOL 1335 ATOL 1336 ATOL 1337 ATOL 1338 ATOL 1339 ATOL 1340 ATOL 1341 ATOL 1342 ATOL 1343 ATOL 1344 ATOL 1345 ATOL 1346 ATOL 1347 ATOL 1348 ATOL 1349 ATOL 1350 ATOL 1351 ATOL 1352 ATOL 1353 ATOL 1354 ATOL 1355 ATOL 1356 ATOL 1357 ATOL 1358 ATOL 1359 ATOL 1360 ATOL 1361 ATOL 1362 ATOL 1363 ATOL 1364 ATOL 1365 ATOL 1366 ATOL 1367 ATOL 1368 ATOL 1369 ATOL 1370 ATOL 1371 ATOL 1372 ATOL 1373 ATOL 1374 ATOL 1375 ATOL 1376 ATOL 1377 ATOL 1378 ATOL 1379 ATOL 1380 ATOL 1381 ATOL 1382 ATOL 1383 ATOL 1384 ATOL 1385 ATOL 1386 ATOL 1387 ATOL 1388 ATOL 1389 ATOL 1390 ATOL 1391 ATOL 1392 ATOL 1393 ATOL 1394 ATOL 1395 ATOL 1396 ATOL 1397 ATOL 1398 ATOL 1399 ATOL 1400 ATOL 1401 ATOL 1402 ATOL 1403 ATOL 1404 ATOL 1405 ATOL 1406 ATOL 1407 ATOL 1408 ATOL 1409 ATOL 1410 ATOL 1411 ATOL 1412 ATOL 1413 ATOL 1414 ATOL 1415 ATOL 1416 ATOL 1417 ATOL 1418 ATOL 1419 ATOL 1420 ATOL 1421 ATOL 1422 ATOL 1423 ATOL 1424 ATOL 1425 ATOL 1426 ATOL 1427 ATOL 1428 ATOL 1429 ATOL 1430 ATOL 1431 ATOL 1432 ATOL 1433 ATOL 1434 ATOL 1435 ATOL 1436 ATOL 1437 ATOL 1438 ATOL 1439 ATOL 1440 ATOL 1441 ATOL 1442 ATOL 1443 ATOL 1444 ATOL 1445 ATOL 1446 ATOL 1447 ATOL 1448 ATOL 1449 ATOL 1450 ATOL 1451 ATOL 1452 ATOL 1453 ATOL 1454 ATOL 1455 ATOL 1456 ATOL 1457 ATOL 1458 ATOL 1459 ATOL 1460 ATOL 1461 ATOL 1462 ATOL 1463 ATOL 1464 ATOL 1465 ATOL 1466 ATOL 1467 ATOL 1468 ATOL 1469 ATOL 1470 ATOL 1471 ATOL 1472 ATOL 1473 ATOL 1474 ATOL 1475 ATOL 1476 ATOL 1477 ATOL 1478 ATOL 1479 ATOL 1480 ATOL 1481 ATOL 1482 ATOL 1483 ATOL 1484 ATOL 1485 ATOL 1486 ATOL 1487 ATOL 1488 ATOL 1489 ATOL 1490 ATOL 1491 ATOL 1492 ATOL 1493 ATOL 1494 ATOL 1495 ATOL 1496 ATOL 1497 ATOL 1498 ATOL 1499 ATOL 1500 ATOL 1501 ATOL 1502 ATOL 1503 ATOL 1504 ATOL 1505 ATOL 1506 ATOL 1507 ATOL 1508 ATOL 1509 ATOL 1510 ATOL 1511 ATOL 1512 ATOL 1513 ATOL 1514 ATOL 1515 ATOL 1516 ATOL 1517 ATOL 1518 ATOL 1519 ATOL 1520 ATOL 1521 ATOL 1522 ATOL 1523 ATOL 1524 ATOL 1525 ATOL 1526 ATOL 1527 ATOL 1528 ATOL 1529 ATOL 1530 ATOL 1531 ATOL 1532 ATOL 1533 ATOL 1534 ATOL 1535 ATOL 1536 ATOL 1537 ATOL 1538 ATOL 1539 ATOL 1540 ATOL 1541 ATOL 1542 ATOL 1543 ATOL 1544 ATOL 1545 ATOL 1546 ATOL 1547 ATOL 1548 ATOL 1549 ATOL 1550 ATOL 1551 ATOL 1552 ATOL 1553 ATOL 1554 ATOL 1555 ATOL 1556 ATOL 1557 ATOL 1558 ATOL 1559 ATOL 1560 ATOL 1561 ATOL 1562 ATOL 1563 ATOL 1564 ATOL 1565 ATOL 1566 ATOL 1567 ATOL 1568 ATOL 1569 ATOL 1570 ATOL 1571 ATOL 1572 ATOL 1573 ATOL 1574 ATOL 1575 ATOL 1576 ATOL 1577 ATOL 1578 ATOL 1579 ATOL 1580 ATOL 1581 ATOL 1582 ATOL 1583 ATOL 1584 ATOL 1585 ATOL 1586 ATOL 1587 ATOL 1588 ATOL 1589 ATOL 1590 ATOL 1591 ATOL 1592 ATOL 1593 ATOL 1594 ATOL 1595 ATOL 1596 ATOL 1597 ATOL 1598 ATOL 1599 ATOL 1600 ATOL 1601 ATOL 1602 ATOL 1603 ATOL 1604 ATOL 1605 ATOL 1606 ATOL 1607 ATOL 1608 ATOL 1609 ATOL 1610 ATOL 1611 ATOL 1612 ATOL 1613 ATOL 1614 ATOL 1615 ATOL 1616 ATOL 1617 ATOL 1618 ATOL 1619 ATOL 1620 ATOL 1621 ATOL 1622 ATOL 1623 ATOL 1624 ATOL 1625 ATOL 1626 ATOL 1627 ATOL 1628 ATOL 1629 ATOL 1630 ATOL 1631 ATOL 1632 ATOL 1633 ATOL 1634 ATOL 1635 ATOL 1636 ATOL 1637 ATOL 1638 ATOL 1639 ATOL 1640 ATOL 1641 ATOL 1642 ATOL 1643 ATOL 1644 ATOL 1645 ATOL 1646 ATOL 1647 ATOL 1648 ATOL 1649 ATOL 1650 ATOL 1651 ATOL 1652 ATOL 1653 ATOL 1654 ATOL 1655 ATOL 1656 ATOL 1657 ATOL 1658 ATOL 1659 ATOL 1660 ATOL 1661 ATOL 1662 ATOL 1663 ATOL 1664 ATOL 1665 ATOL 1666 ATOL 1667 ATOL 1668 ATOL 1669 ATOL 1670 ATOL 1671 ATOL 1672 ATOL 1673 ATOL 1674 ATOL 1675 ATOL 1676 ATOL 1677 ATOL 1678 ATOL 1679 ATOL 1680 ATOL 1681 ATOL 1682 ATOL 1683 ATOL 1684 ATOL 1685 ATOL 1686 ATOL 1687 ATOL 1688 ATOL 1689 ATOL 1690 ATOL 1691 ATOL 1692 ATOL 1693 ATOL 1694 ATOL 1695 ATOL 1696 ATOL 1697 ATOL 1698 ATOL 1699 ATOL 1700 ATOL 1701 ATOL 1702 ATOL 1703 ATOL 1704 ATOL 1705 ATOL 1706 ATOL 1707 ATOL 1708 ATOL 1709 ATOL 1710 ATOL 1711 ATOL 1712 ATOL 1713 ATOL 1714 ATOL 1715 ATOL 1716 ATOL 1717 ATOL 1718 ATOL 1719 ATOL 1720 ATOL 1721 ATOL 1722 ATOL 1723 ATOL 1724 ATOL 1725 ATOL 1726 ATOL 1727 ATOL 1728 ATOL 1729 ATOL 1730 ATOL 1731 ATOL 1732 ATOL 1733 ATOL 1734 ATOL 1735 ATOL 1736 ATOL 1737 ATOL 1738 ATOL 1739 ATOL 1740 ATOL 1741 ATOL 1742 ATOL 1743 ATOL 1744 ATOL 1745 ATOL 1746 ATOL 1747 ATOL 1748 ATOL 1749 ATOL 1750 ATOL 1751 ATOL 1752 ATOL 1753 ATOL 1754 ATOL 1755 ATOL 1756 ATOL 1757 ATOL 1758 ATOL 1759 ATOL 1760 ATOL 1761 ATOL 1762 ATOL 1763 ATOL 1764 ATOL 1765 ATOL 1766 ATOL 1767 ATOL 1768 ATOL 1769 ATOL 1770 ATOL 1771 ATOL 1772 ATOL 1773 ATOL 1774 ATOL 1775 ATOL 1776 ATOL 1777 ATOL 1778 ATOL 1779 ATOL 1780 ATOL 1781 ATOL 1782 ATOL 1783 ATOL 1784 ATOL 1785 ATOL 1786 ATOL 1787 ATOL 1788 ATOL 1789 ATOL 1790 ATOL 1791 ATOL 1792 ATOL 1793 ATOL 1794 ATOL 1795 ATOL 1796 ATOL 1797 ATOL 1798 ATOL 1799 ATOL 1800 ATOL 1801 ATOL 1802 ATOL 1803 ATOL 1804 ATOL 1805 ATOL 1806 ATOL 1807 ATOL 1808 ATOL 1809 ATOL 1810 ATOL 1811 ATOL 1812 ATOL 1813 ATOL 1814 ATOL 1815 ATOL 1816 ATOL 1817 ATOL 1818 ATOL 1819 ATOL 1820 ATOL 1821 ATOL 1822 ATOL 1823 ATOL 1824 ATOL 1825 ATOL 1826 ATOL 1827 ATOL 1828 ATOL 1829 ATOL 1830 ATOL 1831 ATOL 1832 ATOL 1833 ATOL 1834 ATOL 1835 ATOL 1836 ATOL 1837 ATOL 1838 ATOL 1839 ATOL 1840 ATOL 1841 ATOL 1842 ATOL 1843 ATOL 1844 ATOL 1845 ATOL 1846 ATOL 1847 ATOL 1848 ATOL 1849 ATOL

French rail boss in jail for corruption

MARY DEJEVSKY

Paris

The chairman of France's world-respected national railway company, SNCF, set a dubious precedent yesterday when he became the first head of any nationalised French company to be sent to jail. Loïk Le Floch-Prigent was remanded in custody late on Thursday evening, after several hours of questioning by a Paris judge about possible misuse of funds and false accounting.

He spent the night – and could spend the weekend – in prison, waiting to know if he will be formally indicted. So far, he is only under investigation, but can be held in prison at thehest of the examining judge.

While the imprisonment of the railways head has shocked France's governing establishment, it raised wry smiles on the streets and prompted hackneyed headlines about "train chief derailed", the charges he could face have nothing to do with his present post at SNCF, or his previous post as head of the state gas company.

They relate to the period between 1989 and 1993, when he was chairman of the state-owned oil company, Elf Aquitaine, and administrator of its Bidermann textile subsidiary. Yesterday's questioning was said to concern the way in which 800m francs of Elf's

money was apparently "swallowed up" without trace by Bidermann in the early Nineties.

The investigation into the so-called Elf-Bidermann affair accelerated last year with the arrival in power of the Gaullist president, Jacques Chirac. The posts of chairmen of nationalised industries, like those of university chancellors and many others, are in the gift of the President and Prime Minister of the day. Those appointed while President Mitterrand was in power characteristically had socialist sympathies, and now find their position precarious. Aside from Mr Le Floch-Prigent, three other business leaders, including the former head of the telecommunications group, Alcatel-Alsthom, are currently under judicial investigation.

Mr Le Floch-Prigent's socialist sympathies are strong enough to earn him the nickname "Pink Floch". But he also has a strong managerial track-record, a combination that brought him the top job at Elf at the age of 45. He is, however, one of the few "red harlots" of French industry whose difficulties with the law threaten more embarrassment to the government than to the Socialist opposition.

For Mr Le Floch-Prigent's managerial gifts were so respected by Mr Chirac and Mr Juppé that they called on him last December to occupy one of the hottest seats in French management, at SNCF. His management record and left-wing sympathies seemed ideal for the task.

He inherited a company that had just spent two months paralysing the national rail network and spearheading a nationwide protest against the

government's attempts to reform the public sector. Militant railwaymen had forced the abandonment of a carefully drawn-up restructuring plan, and drummed his predecessor out of office.

Six months later, Mr Le Floch-Prigent is well on the way to gaining staff approval for a

completely rewritten restructuring plan. He appears to have wrangled more money out of the government, and says the railways could be back in the black before too long.

Of all recent recruits, Loïk Le Floch-Prigent is probably the one the government would least like to lose.

CNN to broadcast Olympics from shed on top of bar

BOB GRAHAM

Atlanta

A tiny bar overlooking the Olympic Stadium is set to become home to CNN for what is described as "exclusive Olympic coverage". And CNN will not have to pay a single dollar for the privilege.

The worldwide broadcasting network – smarting over the loss of the coverage of the games – has pulled off a coup by arranging live coverage of the stadium from a specially con-

structed platform twenty feet above the roof of Paul's Bar.

From the platform, CNN will have an uninterrupted view of events inside the stadium.

The vantage point, more than 100 feet above the stadium walls, has angered CNN's American rivals NBC who paid nearly \$500m (£325m) for exclusive coverage of the games in Atlanta – the city where CNN has its headquarters. But furious NBC chiefs will be unable to block the CNN camera which is set to broadcast live to 197 countries.

The broadcasting coup was

arranged in a deal between CNN and Paul D'Agnes, owner of the bar. It was less than four months ago that CNN – desperate to find good camera

"exceed one million dollars".



The Heart of Britain Book, on sale in October 1996, will feature the 300 best photographs sent in by people like you. Just take your pictures between 1st July - 7th July and

Each section winner will receive an Olympus Mju-1 camera worth £129.99!

Photographic Competition Entry Form

I would like to enter:

3 photographs for the Heart of Britain Competition and enclose £2

10 photographs for the Heart of Britain Competition and enclose £5

I agree to the terms and conditions detailed below:

Name _____ Age _____

Address _____ Postcode _____

Signed _____ Date _____

TERMS AND CONDITIONS

1. Send completed entry form, photographs and a cheque or postal order payable to "Heart of Britain Competition", to: Heart of Britain, 3 Riverside Way, Irvine KA1 5QH. Tel: 01292 223000. Fax: 01292 223200. Registered in Scotland No. 137446.

2. Entries must be sent to the Heart of Britain Competition, to: Heart of Britain, 3 Riverside Way, Irvine KA1 5QH. Tel: 01292 223000. Fax: 01292 223200. Registered in Scotland No. 137446.

3. Entries must be sent to the Heart of Britain Competition, to: Heart of Britain, 3 Riverside Way, Irvine KA1 5QH. Tel: 01292 223000. Fax: 01292 223200. Registered in Scotland No. 137446.

4. Entries must be sent to the Heart of Britain Competition, to: Heart of Britain, 3 Riverside Way, Irvine KA1 5QH. Tel: 01292 223000. Fax: 01292 223200. Registered in Scotland No. 137446.

5. Entries must be sent to the Heart of Britain Competition, to: Heart of Britain, 3 Riverside Way, Irvine KA1 5QH. Tel: 01292 223000. Fax: 01292 223200. Registered in Scotland No. 137446.

6. Entries must be sent to the Heart of Britain Competition, to: Heart of Britain, 3 Riverside Way, Irvine KA1 5QH. Tel: 01292 223000. Fax: 01292 223200. Registered in Scotland No. 137446.

7. Entries must be sent to the Heart of Britain Competition, to: Heart of Britain, 3 Riverside Way, Irvine KA1 5QH. Tel: 01292 223000. Fax: 01292 223200. Registered in Scotland No. 137446.

8. Entries must be sent to the Heart of Britain Competition, to: Heart of Britain, 3 Riverside Way, Irvine KA1 5QH. Tel: 01292 223000. Fax: 01292 223200. Registered in Scotland No. 137446.

9. Entries must be sent to the Heart of Britain Competition, to: Heart of Britain, 3 Riverside Way, Irvine KA1 5QH. Tel: 01292 223000. Fax: 01292 223200. Registered in Scotland No. 137446.

10. Entries must be sent to the Heart of Britain Competition, to: Heart of Britain, 3 Riverside Way, Irvine KA1 5QH. Tel: 01292 223000. Fax: 01292 223200. Registered in Scotland No. 137446.

11. Entries must be sent to the Heart of Britain Competition, to: Heart of Britain, 3 Riverside Way, Irvine KA1 5QH. Tel: 01292 223000. Fax: 01292 223200. Registered in Scotland No. 137446.

12. Entries must be sent to the Heart of Britain Competition, to: Heart of Britain, 3 Riverside Way, Irvine KA1 5QH. Tel: 01292 223000. Fax: 01292 223200. Registered in Scotland No. 137446.

13. Entries must be sent to the Heart of Britain Competition, to: Heart of Britain, 3 Riverside Way, Irvine KA1 5QH. Tel: 01292 223000. Fax: 01292 223200. Registered in Scotland No. 137446.

14. Entries must be sent to the Heart of Britain Competition, to: Heart of Britain, 3 Riverside Way, Irvine KA1 5QH. Tel: 01292 223000. Fax: 01292 223200. Registered in Scotland No. 137446.

15. Entries must be sent to the Heart of Britain Competition, to: Heart of Britain, 3 Riverside Way, Irvine KA1 5QH. Tel: 01292 223000. Fax: 01292 223200. Registered in Scotland No. 137446.

16. Entries must be sent to the Heart of Britain Competition, to: Heart of Britain, 3 Riverside Way, Irvine KA1 5QH. Tel: 01292 223000. Fax: 01292 223200. Registered in Scotland No. 137446.

17. Entries must be sent to the Heart of Britain Competition, to: Heart of Britain, 3 Riverside Way, Irvine KA1 5QH. Tel: 01292 223000. Fax: 01292 223200. Registered in Scotland No. 137446.

18. Entries must be sent to the Heart of Britain Competition, to: Heart of Britain, 3 Riverside Way, Irvine KA1 5QH. Tel: 01292 223000. Fax: 01292 223200. Registered in Scotland No. 137446.

19. Entries must be sent to the Heart of Britain Competition, to: Heart of Britain, 3 Riverside Way, Irvine KA1 5QH. Tel: 01292 223000. Fax: 01292 223200. Registered in Scotland No. 137446.

20. Entries must be sent to the Heart of Britain Competition, to: Heart of Britain, 3 Riverside Way, Irvine KA1 5QH. Tel: 01292 223000. Fax: 01292 223200. Registered in Scotland No. 137446.

21. Entries must be sent to the Heart of Britain Competition, to: Heart of Britain, 3 Riverside Way, Irvine KA1 5QH. Tel: 01292 223000. Fax: 01292 223200. Registered in Scotland No. 137446.

22. Entries must be sent to the Heart of Britain Competition, to: Heart of Britain, 3 Riverside Way, Irvine KA1 5QH. Tel: 01292 223000. Fax: 01292 223200. Registered in Scotland No. 137446.

23. Entries must be sent to the Heart of Britain Competition, to: Heart of Britain, 3 Riverside Way, Irvine KA1 5QH. Tel: 01292 223000. Fax: 01292 223200. Registered in Scotland No. 137446.

24. Entries must be sent to the Heart of Britain Competition, to: Heart of Britain, 3 Riverside Way, Irvine KA1 5QH. Tel: 01292 223000. Fax: 01292 223200. Registered in Scotland No. 137446.

25. Entries must be sent to the Heart of Britain Competition, to: Heart of Britain, 3 Riverside Way, Irvine KA1 5QH. Tel: 01292 223000. Fax: 01292 223200. Registered in Scotland No. 137446.

26. Entries must be sent to the Heart of Britain Competition, to: Heart of Britain, 3 Riverside Way, Irvine KA1 5QH. Tel: 01292 223000. Fax: 01292 223200. Registered in Scotland No. 137446.

27. Entries must be sent to the Heart of Britain Competition, to: Heart of Britain, 3 Riverside Way, Irvine KA1 5QH. Tel: 01292 223000. Fax: 01292 223200. Registered in Scotland No. 137446.

28. Entries must be sent to the Heart of Britain Competition, to: Heart of Britain, 3 Riverside Way, Irvine KA1 5QH. Tel: 01292 223000. Fax: 01292 223200. Registered in Scotland No. 137446.

29. Entries must be sent to the Heart of Britain Competition, to: Heart of Britain, 3 Riverside Way, Irvine KA1 5QH. Tel: 01292 223000. Fax: 01292 223200. Registered in Scotland No. 137446.

30. Entries must be sent to the Heart of Britain Competition, to: Heart of Britain, 3 Riverside Way, Irvine KA1 5QH. Tel: 01292 223000. Fax: 01292 223200. Registered in Scotland No. 137446.

31. Entries must be sent to the Heart of Britain Competition, to: Heart of Britain, 3 Riverside Way, Irvine KA1 5QH. Tel: 01292 223000. Fax: 01292 223200. Registered in Scotland No. 137446.

32. Entries must be sent to the Heart of Britain Competition, to: Heart of Britain, 3 Riverside Way, Irvine KA1 5QH. Tel: 01292 223000. Fax: 01292 223200. Registered in Scotland No. 137446.

33. Entries must be sent to the Heart of Britain Competition, to: Heart of Britain, 3 Riverside Way, Irvine KA1 5QH. Tel: 01292 223000. Fax: 01292 223200. Registered in Scotland No. 137446.

34. Entries must be sent to the Heart of Britain Competition, to: Heart of Britain, 3 Riverside Way, Irvine KA1 5QH. Tel: 01292 223000. Fax: 01292 223200. Registered in Scotland No. 137446.

35. Entries must be sent to the Heart of Britain Competition, to: Heart of Britain, 3 Riverside Way, Irvine KA1 5QH. Tel: 01292 223000. Fax: 01292 223200. Registered in Scotland No. 137446.

36. Entries must be sent to the Heart of Britain Competition, to: Heart of Britain, 3 Riverside Way, Irvine KA1 5QH. Tel: 01292 223000. Fax: 01292 223200. Registered in Scotland No. 137446.

37. Entries must be sent to the Heart of Britain Competition, to: Heart of Britain, 3 Riverside Way, Irvine KA1 5QH. Tel: 01292 223000. Fax: 01292 223200. Registered in Scotland No. 137446.

38. Entries must be sent to the Heart of Britain Competition, to: Heart of Britain, 3 Riverside Way, Irvine KA1 5QH. Tel: 01292 223000. Fax: 01292 223200. Registered in Scotland No. 137446.

39. Entries must be sent to the Heart of Britain Competition, to: Heart of Britain, 3 Riverside Way, Irvine KA1 5QH. Tel: 01292 223000. Fax: 01292 223200. Registered in Scotland No. 137446.

40. Entries must be sent to the Heart of Britain Competition, to: Heart of Britain, 3 Riverside Way, Irvine KA1 5QH. Tel: 01292 223000. Fax: 01292 223200. Registered in Scotland No. 137446.

41. Entries must be sent to the Heart of Britain Competition, to: Heart of Britain, 3 Riverside Way, Irvine KA1 5QH. Tel: 01292 223000. Fax: 01292 223200. Registered in Scotland No. 137446.

42. Entries must be sent to the Heart of Britain Competition, to: Heart of Britain, 3 Riverside Way, Irvine KA1 5QH. Tel: 01292 223000. Fax: 01292 223200. Registered in Scotland No. 137446.

43. Entries must be sent to the Heart of Britain Competition, to: Heart of Britain, 3 Riverside Way, Irvine KA1 5QH. Tel: 01292 223000. Fax: 01292 223200. Registered in Scotland No. 137446.

44. Entries must be sent to the Heart of Britain Competition, to: Heart of Britain, 3 Riverside Way, Irvine KA1 5QH. Tel: 01292 223000. Fax: 01292 223200. Registered in Scotland No. 137446.

45. Entries must be sent to the Heart of Britain Competition, to: Heart of Britain, 3 Riverside Way, Irvine KA1 5QH. Tel: 01292 223000. Fax: 01292 223200. Registered in Scotland No. 137446.

46. Entries must be sent to the Heart of Britain Competition, to: Heart of Britain, 3 Riverside Way, Irvine KA1 5QH. Tel: 01292 223000. Fax: 01292 223200. Registered in Scotland No. 137446.

47. Entries must be sent to the Heart of Britain Competition, to: Heart of Britain, 3 Riverside Way, Irvine KA1 5QH. Tel: 01292 223000. Fax: 01292 223200. Registered in Scotland No. 137446.

48. Entries must be sent to the Heart of Britain Competition, to: Heart of Britain, 3 Riverside Way, Irvine KA1 5QH. Tel: 01292 223000. Fax: 01292 223200. Registered in Scotland No. 137446.

49. Entries must be sent to the Heart of Britain Competition, to: Heart of Britain, 3 Riverside Way, Irvine KA1 5QH. Tel: 01292 223000. Fax: 01292 223200. Registered in Scotland No. 137446.

50. Entries must be sent to the Heart of Britain Competition, to: Heart of Britain, 3 Riverside Way, Irvine KA1 5QH. Tel: 01292 223000. Fax: 01292 223200. Registered in Scotland No. 137446.

51. Entries must be sent to the Heart of Britain Competition, to: Heart of Britain, 3 Riverside Way, Irvine KA1 5QH. Tel: 01292 223000. Fax: 01292 223200. Registered in Scotland No. 137446.

52. Entries must be sent to the Heart of Britain Competition, to: Heart of Britain, 3 Riverside Way, Irvine KA1 5QH. Tel: 01292 223000. Fax: 01292 223200. Registered in Scotland No. 137446.

53. Entries must be sent to the Heart of Britain Competition, to: Heart of Britain, 3 Riverside Way, Irvine KA1 5QH. Tel: 01292 223000. Fax: 01292 223200. Registered in Scotland No. 137446.

54. Entries must be sent to the Heart of Britain Competition, to: Heart of Britain, 3 Riverside Way, Irvine KA1 5QH. Tel: 01292 223000. Fax: 01292 223200. Registered in Scotland No. 137446.

55. Entries must be sent to the Heart of Britain Competition, to: Heart of Britain, 3 Riverside Way, Irvine KA1 5QH. Tel: 01292 223000. Fax: 01292 223200. Registered in Scotland No. 137446.

56. Entries must be sent to the Heart of Britain Competition, to: Heart of Britain, 3 Riverside Way, Irvine KA1 5QH. Tel: 01292 223000. Fax: 01292 223200. Registered in Scotland No. 137446.

57. Entries must be sent to the Heart of Britain Competition, to: Heart of Britain, 3 Riverside Way, Irvine KA1 5QH. Tel: 01292 223000. Fax: 01292 223200. Registered in Scotland No. 137446.

58. Entries must be sent to the Heart of Britain Competition, to: Heart of Britain, 3 Riverside Way, Irvine KA1 5QH. Tel: 01292 223000. Fax: 01292 223200. Registered in Scotland No. 137446.

59. Entries must be sent to the Heart of Britain Competition, to: Heart of Britain, 3 Riverside Way, Irvine KA1 5QH. Tel: 01292 223000. Fax: 01292 223200. Registered in Scotland No. 137446.

60. Entries must be sent to the Heart of Britain Competition, to: Heart of Britain, 3 Riverside Way, Irvine KA1 5QH. Tel: 01292 223000. Fax: 01292 223200. Registered in Scotland No. 137446.

61. Entries must be sent to the Heart of Britain Competition, to: Heart of Britain, 3 Riverside Way, Irvine KA1 5QH. Tel: 01292 223000. Fax: 01292 223200. Registered in Scotland No. 137446.

62. Entries must be sent to the Heart of Britain Competition, to: Heart of Britain, 3 Riverside Way, Irvine KA1 5QH. Tel: 01292 223000. Fax: 01292 223200. Registered in Scotland No. 137446.

63. Entries must be sent to the Heart of Britain Competition, to: Heart of Britain, 3 Riverside Way, Irvine KA1 5QH. Tel: 01292 223000. Fax: 01292 223200. Registered in Scotland No. 137446.

64. Entries must be sent to the Heart of Britain Competition, to: Heart of Britain, 3 Riverside Way, Irvine KA1 5QH. Tel: 01292 223000. Fax: 01292 223200. Registered in Scotland No. 137446.

65. Entries must be sent to the Heart of Britain Competition, to: Heart of Britain, 3 Riverside Way, Irvine KA1 5QH. Tel: 01292 223000. Fax: 01292 223200. Registered in Scotland No. 137446.

66. Entries must be sent to the Heart of Britain Competition, to: Heart of Britain, 3 Riverside Way, Irvine KA1 5QH. Tel: 01292 223000. Fax: 01292 223200. Registered in Scotland No. 137446.

67. Entries must be sent to the Heart of Britain Competition, to: Heart of Britain, 3 Riverside Way, Irvine KA1 5QH. Tel: 01292

Type 10150

The Independent Weekend



What will your child read today?

Children's books special, pages 12 & 13

Illustration: Catherine Donisthorpe

LIVING.....	2-3	REVIEWS.....	8	TRAVEL.....	14-19	MONEY.....	22-25	TV & RADIO	
SHOPPING.....	4-6	ARTS.....	9	COUNTRY.....	20	GOING OUT.....	26	TODAY.....	28
GARDENING.....	7	BOOKS.....	10-13	PROPERTY.....	21	SUNDAY.....	27		



Qualify to teach in Secondary Schools through Part-time study

Are you considering teaching as a career? Do you have a degree or are you about to get one? Then here is an established and successful programme from the Open University which can lead to full recognition as a qualified teacher. Remember, graduates in scientific, mathematical and technological disciplines are in particular demand in the teaching profession.

The Open University Postgraduate Certificate in Education has the following features:

- courses for Secondary teaching in Mathematics, Science, Technology, English, History, Music and Modern Languages;
- part-time home-based study over eighteen months from February 1997 to July 1998, combined with three, four and six-week blocks of full-time experience in schools;
- courses include study guides, resource materials, video/audio cassettes and the use of information technology;
- support from an OU tutor and group study sessions;
- grants to cover the full course fees and a small maintenance grant for almost all students.

Please return the coupon below for a copy of the PGCE prospectus. The closing date for applications is 31 October.

Complete and send this coupon to:

The Open University, PO Box 625, Milton Keynes MK1 1TY.
 Please send me your Postgraduate Certificate in Education prospectus.

Name

Address

Postcode

To save time call the Hotline 01908 365302

UNIVERSITY EDUCATION & TRAINING OPEN TO ALL ADULTS

INSIDE STORIES

4-6
SHOPPING

Miss Monro, still putting on the chintz at 80; fake tan guide; nautical accessories; six of the best cushions

7
GARDENING

Anna Pavord celebrates the return to favour of the mixed border

8-9
ARTS

The Three Tenors roadshow; Thomas Sutcliffe on the BBC's big mistake

10-13
BOOKS

Children's books special, including the shortlist of the Carnegie Medal and reviews of new titles for all ages

14-19
TRAVEL

Day tripping around the Channel Islands and beyond; Steve Crawshaw recalls the Soviet summer of '76

20
COUNTRY

Caroline Donald on ladies who shoot; Duff Hart-Davis on the gamekeeper's tale

21
PROPERTY

Why you should think twice before converting your loft into a bedroom

22-25
MONEY

Jonathan Davies looks at 30-year investments; plus that Energy flotation

26-28
LISTINGS

A comprehensive guide to weekend entertainment; Saturday and Sunday television and radio

My week

Paul Malcolm
Actor / lifer



'He's in a band that just got signed, and now he's acting distant, yadda, yadda'

EMMA FORREST



Saturday night
Sunday morning

Man, I doo' really understand how money works, or the price difference between a pizza and a car...

The most significant gift to myself was the club membership. My whole life, "Seventeen" by Janis Ian has been my theme: "To those whose names were never called/ When choosing sides at basketball." Or softball. Or rounders. Even though I had to pay lots of money to be picked, I still feel vindicated by my little purple club card. You like me, you really like me.

Club rules say you are only allowed to bring three guests. There are five of us. The smart thing seems not to go up to the desk and tell the lady very politely that I have two extra guests. Our plan is that Grace and Laureo should run up the stairs before anyone notices they're come in. Remember, we only left school last summer. We haven't quite adjusted. They are collared straight away.

"How many of you are there?" demands the terrifyingly elegant woman

at reception. "Three," I stammer. "I can see five of you." "Well, yes, now there are five." "Oh, there were three of you and now there are five?" Yes, by the power of physics, yes. "What's your name?" she demands. "Oh my God, I'm going to get sent to the headmistress's office."

Obviously, this has happened before. I wonder if Alan Yentob did it, too. Anyway, she gives us such a telling-off that we have to hide in the toilets and gulp back tears. Grace is philosophical. "We look like teenage bird and her teenage mates who just ate in a crap Camden restaurant and got pissed on cheap red wine and spent half an hour staring at their butts in the mirror. Besides, you did break the rules." She has a point. We quit while we're ahead. Patti wants to go home and listen to Oasis, regardless of the almighty rainstorm brewing outside. I just want to go home. Why did I break club rules on the first day? Why didn't I wear a jacket? Why do fools fall in love? Moral of the story? Don't look back to anger, or wet angora.

Thailand's transvestite volleyball champs and other stories from the frontiers of the believable

What if he has an operation and grows breasts? The question was asked by an official of the Volleyball Association of Thailand, explaining their decision to ban from the national side two members of a gold-medal winning provincial team, most of whose players are transvestites. "If we travel abroad," the official reasoned, "foreigners might think that Thailand doesn't have enough real men for its team." The "Steel Women" are now established as the best provincial side in Thailand, and have grown a large following through their habit of playing in long hair, makeup and lipstick.

Wife-carrying goes international today, as the annual woman-carrying race in the Finnish village of Sonkajarvi opens its doors to the first time to competitors from abroad. Male contestants must each pick up a woman ("preferably someone else's wife" according to the rules) and run with her over a 235-metre course. The winner will receive his partner's weight in beer.

Eight South Africans have been jailed for burning a witch. A court in Northern Province passed 10-year jail sentences on eight men who had burnt to death a 71-year-old woman whom they believed to be a witch.

Police in Australia helped a witch-burning ceremony, which protesters had attempted to disrupt. The Scandinavian Society in Darwin were celebrating St Hans' Day, as they have done every year since 1973, with a bonfire. Feminists had hidden among the wood in protest at the witch effigy on top of the pyre. "It was the typical representation of a witch," said one of the protesters: "long hair, big wort oo nose, the hat - all the negative sides of women." Police arrived when a fight broke out. "The Scandinavian Society had all the appropriate permissions to hold the bonfire," a police spokesman said.

Police disarmed a three-year-old in Southampton after a car chase. Scott Schillermore had a tummy ache when he went shopping with his mum and grandparents, so they bought him a plastic gun with a bright red muzzle. On the drive home, they noticed a police car behind them, but were surprised when officers in bullet-proof jackets jumped out and two more police cars blocked each end of the road as soon as they arrived home. Apparently, the police had received two telephone calls about a man with a gun in the car. After frisking the shoppers as they stood by the car with their hands on the roof, then searching their shopping bags, the police drove off. Scott doesn't play with the gun anymore because he is afraid the police will return.

A dead fish in the glove compartment was among the objects left by forgetful motorists in a worldwide survey by Budget Rent a Car. The list also includes a panting dog, complete with dog bowl, a hedgehog, poisonous snakes, a dead cat, a dead chicken, soft drugs, condoms, nude photographs, sexy underwear, £3,000 in cash, false legs, false arms, a glass eye, a bail of hay and a baby still asleep in the baby chair.

Police disguised as paramedics arrested drug-pushers disguised as clowns in Chapultepec park in Mexico City. They also arrested the park janitor, said to be the clowns' business partner.

Fat tart gains planning permission. Bakers in Frankfurt have been given permission to erect a 23ft high cake which they believe will earn a place in the Guinness Book of Records. Since the "fountain torte" will be over five metres high, it required planning consent. Ingredients include 2,000 eggs, 50kg of butter and two crates of marzipan.

Pigeons have been grounded in Switzerland. The Swiss army has disbanded its corps of carrier pigeons after 77 years. A 100,000-signature petition to keep the birds in the air had threatened to force a national referendum on the subject, but pigeon-fanciers have accepted a compromise whereby the pigeons will still be available for research purposes at a military post near Bern. The petitioners had pointed out that pigeons are faster than cars over mountainous territory.

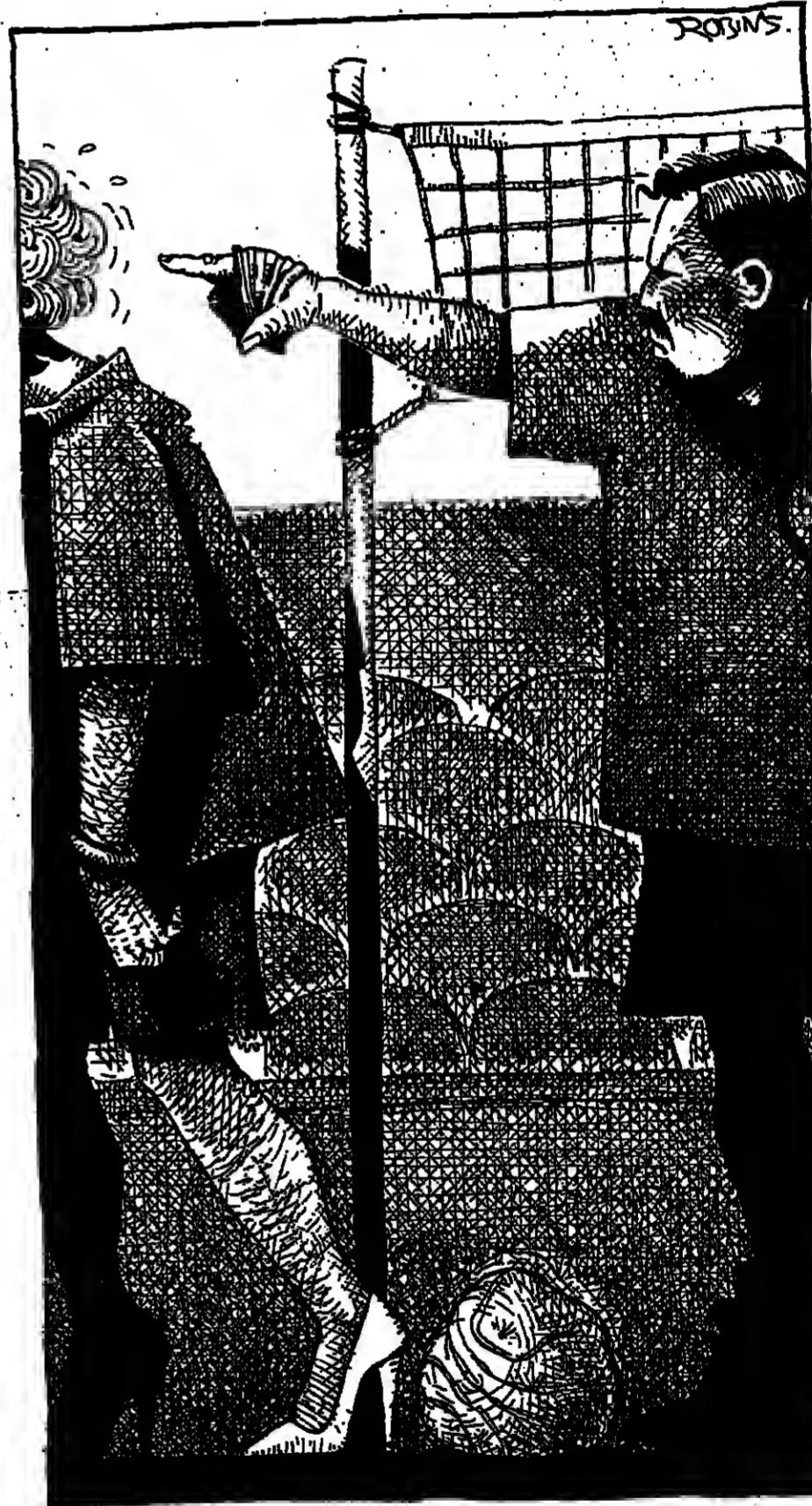
But Boutras Boutras Garlic on your barbecue. A pungent flavouring of that name has been marketed by the New Vaal Farm Store in Johannesburg. Bottles went on sale at New York's UN building last week, with profits going to charity.

Orjan Nikolic had a close shave after running away from his home in the former Yugoslavia because he didn't want a haircut. He was found balancing on top of an electricity pylon and fell off before he could be rescued. The boy was not seriously hurt, but his hair had to be cut to allow an examination for possible head injuries.

There are six more ferrets to fancy. Until recently there were only three known strains of ferret - the white Albino, the brown Fitchet and the Sandy, but a report lists the Bronze, Mahogany, Sealpoint, Cinnamon, Silver and Dark-eyed White as recent additions which could create an explosion in the numbers of ferret-fanciers.

Judge finds for judges after judge complains. The Supreme Court in Buenos Aires has quashed fines imposed on 10 judges after a raucous party at a courthouse last Christmas. After complaints about the noise, another judge had arrived with police to restore order. Two judges were subsequently fined a third of their monthly salaries by a tribunal for "conduct unbecoming the rank of magistrate". The appeal court overturned the verdict citing "constitutional considerations".

What do you buy a gorilla for its birthday? Koko the gorilla, who was 25 last week, was the first of her kind to use sign language and now has a working vocabulary of some 500 words. She was given, at her own request, a box of scary rubber snakes. Researchers at the Gorilla Foundation in Woodside, near San Jose, California, said that she doesn't understand that



SATURDAY
When I was 24 I was given "life" for killing someone. I'm coming to the end of a 12-year sentence, so I'm living in pre-release hostel. I started acting in Wormland Scrubs but the Escape Artist Company really got going in Weyland Prison. There were five of us and we were very close. You get some extremely nasty, maladjusted people in prison, but you meet some great friends too. Audiences would come in once a month to watch us play like *Waiting for Godot* and *Accidental Death of an Anarchist*. We'd get a real adrenaline rush from performing, so it was terrible being locked up again. We couldn't discuss how it had gone without lying on the floor and shouting at each other from under the steel doors. I spent today with my girlfriend, Jessica, learning my lines for *The Dumb Waiter*. It's my first production outside prison, and starts next week.

MONDAY
This morning I practised my lines in the park with Jessica. *The Dumb Waiter* is about a couple of contract killers and I

play Ben, who's a ruthless character. People say that lunatics are the best parts to play, but it's difficult to get under the skin of someone like that. I'm trying to introduce a flicker of compassion to the part. In the evening we went to see *Secrets and Lies*. It was very good, but it's still a big decision to give up a chunk of free time in the cinema. Afterwards we went back to Jessica's flat and played Cut-throat Gin Rummy, but we both fell bit down. Tonight is our last night together. Up until now I've been free from Friday morning until Sunday night, but the Home Office has just changed the rules so I've got to go back to my hostel every night now until I'm released. You start to wonder where punishment ends and cruelty begins. We got to bed about 10.30pm and I worried about the production. We've got no grants and we've all put a lot of our own money into the play, so success is vital.

TUESDAY
I got up at 6am to meet my lawyer and the deputy warden of the hostel to talk about the weekend visits. They didn't turn up, and I had to leave for our last rehearsal. *The Dumb Waiter* was written in 1962, but it's still an incredibly powerful drama. Hopefully we can bring a certain menace and claustrophobia to the play from our experiences in prison. We spent a lot of today putting up the set and feeling nervous. Neil told a story about Pinter walking out of some production. Apparently an actor missed a

arrived: Neil from Cambridge and Simon from Bath. We spent the afternoon rehearsing in the flat. In the middle of rehearsals we got a call from Pinter's assistant saying that he couldn't make it for press night, but would come tomorrow - which put us all in a panic. Afterwards I had to go back to the hostel. Jessica walked me to the tube and we tried to lighten the mood with a bit of banter, but when the tube doors closed they might as well have been prison doors - I felt totally sealed off again.

WEDNESDAY
After last night's performance I felt really miserable. Pinter laughed a few times, but I wasn't happy with the way it had gone. The way I was feeling I didn't want to meet Pinter at all, but the whole company ended up having a good discussion with him and Lady Antonia in the beer garden afterwards. Lady Antonia looked like she hadn't been in a pub for years. Tonight was press night.

THURSDAY
When I got back to the flat this morning it looked like a hombsite. I rehearsed with Neil and Simon, then it was back to the theatre. Tonight a group of 20 schoolchildren came along, which was great, but I still wasn't pleased. We're just not getting the right tension. Some audiences come to see us as a voyeuristic thing, but I don't want them to make allowances for us, I want them to leave gobsmacked. We had a usual postmortem in the beer garden,

line, so Pinter stood up and said "this is not my play" before storming out.

FRIDAY
Tonight was the first time we had to worry about getting people in off the street, but we did and the play finally went well. We need to make enough money to keep the company going, because I know what it meant to me when I was inside and I want it to be there for others when they get out.

I've been thinking about my friend Lee a lot this week. He's served 15 years and he's got another five to go. When he went inside he was barely literate, now he writes, acts, paints and sculpts. He's totally changed. These kind of productions help break down stereotypes about prisoners. I've done something that I can never forgive myself for, but I've got to keep on living. Hopefully, if people come and see *The Dumb Waiter* they'll realise that people like me are human beings, capable of good things as well as bad.

Interview by Lise Spencer
The Dumb Waiter is at the Etcetera Theatre, London NW1 to 14 July. (0171-482 4857)

July 1996

living



'But where was Jeremy Paxman?'

It's a common complaint levelled at the BBC TV information centre during 'Newsnight', usually from women with a certain quiver in their voice. But nothing fazes our team, even if it's a viewer angry that Cliff's impromptu gig at Wimbledon wasn't in the 'Radio Times'. 'Thanks for your comment. I'll pass that on'

I may have caused a few hot flushes among the blue rinses, but Cliff Richard's impromptu concert at Wimbledon on Wednesday made the staff at the BBC TV Information Office very tired. The phones, you see, started ringing from the moment the wrinkled one started glinting his tinted specs and waving his elbow in front of the royal box. The callers seemed to believe that the BBC was responsible for the rain that had stopped play and that, furthermore, they should have warned viewers that the Bachelor Boy was going to be on by printing it in the *Radio Times*.

The incident took place late afternoon, but related calls continued throughout the evening. "Get that man off!" cried one viewer over a cacophonous background wall. "He's upsetting my children!" A woman claimed she needed a copy on videotape for her dying daughter, and was most put out when told that they were unable to help. The information office can't distribute tapes of programmes and films, the copyright laws are rather strict on that point. Still, it doesn't stop the punters from asking for them. Someone even requested a copy of *Batman* at Christmas. They must have hoped it would be cheaper than going to Our Price.

The information office is the conduit between the BBC and the real world. In a windowless room on the third floor of TV Centre in Wood Lane, a team of between one and six beleaguered individuals deal courteously with the public. The walls are plastered with boards displaying phone numbers, names, addresses. Shelves buckle beneath reference books, leaflets and ring-binders of old copies of the *Radio Times*. Above the clock, a digital read-out says how many callers are on the line and how long they have been waiting. By the door, a bank of televisions silently shows the output of all the terrestrial channels: the public frequently ring in to complain about something on Carlton. The number handed out most regularly is that of Channel 4.

SERENA MACKESY



In another life

"It's like being in the Tardis on *Dr Who*," says Leonie Moore, manager of the outfit and veteran of six years' front-line action. "You can't see out, we have this central console covered in computer equipment and, particularly at night, the only thing you see of the outside world is what comes through the television and the telephone lines. These people pepper their speech patterns with visual, particularly visual, images: after all, the basic qualification for working here is knowing more about television than anyone in the outside world. Knowledge which they disseminate with the patience of Job. The corporation's switchboard receives around 15,000 calls a day, of which this department handles around 10 per cent. Fifteen per cent of the callers are griping, 10 per cent are praising, five per cent 'don't really know what it is they want' and the other 70 per cent are after information. That is around 85 completely unpredictable calls each hour on any subject from Motocross to *Postman Pat*.

Each call is logged, either as "comment" or "information request" on their computer system, with whatever reply was given. Over the years, they have built up an extraordinary database of television ephemera. "It happened inadvertently," says Leonie on Wednesday evening, clicking her mouse at great speed as her staff faced the onslaught. "It was



POST	HOLDER	DEPARTMENT
CHAIRMAN, Board of Governors	SIR CHRISTOPHER BLAND	CHILDREN'S
DEPUTY CHAIRMAN, Board of Governors	LORD COCKS	AMA GROUP
DIRECTOR GENERAL	JOHN BIRT	SINGLE DRAMA
DEPUTY DIRECTOR-GENERAL	BOB PHILLIS	RELIGIOUS PROGRAMMES
MANAGING DIRECTOR, TELEVISION	WILL WYATT	ENTERTAINMENT GROUP
ASSISTANT MANAGING DIRECTOR, TV		COMEDY
CONTROLLER, BBC1	ALAN YENTOB	ENTERTAINMENT COMEDY
CONTROLLER, BBC2	MICHAEL JACKSON	LIGHT ENTERTAINMENT
M.D., REGIONAL BROADCASTING	RON NEIL	SIC AND ARTS
CONTROLLER, SCOTLAND	JOHN McCORMICK	BAL PROGRAMMES GROUP
GOVERNOR FOR SCOTLAND	REV NORMAN DODDING	FEATURES
CONTROLLER, N. IRELAND	PAUL LOUGHREY (M)	SCIENCE FEATURES
GOVERNOR FOR N. IRELAND	SIR KENNETH BLOOMFIELD (K)	COMMUNITY DISABILITY
CONTROLLER, WALES	GERALD TALFAN DAVIES	DOCUMENTARIES
GOVERNOR FOR WALES	DR. Gwyn JONES	TRAILER HISTORY UNIT
CHAIRMAN, BBC WORLDWIDE	BOB PHILLIS	TH AND ENTERTAINMENT
SECRETARY	MICHAEL STEVENSON	YOUNG EDUCATION
	RICHARD ELLIOTT	KIDS BROADCASTS
		SPORTS & EVENTS GROUP
12 BBC WORLD SERVICE TELEVISION		

12 BBC WORLD SERVICE TELEVISION

Information, of course, is a blanket term as far as the licence-fee payer is concerned: everyone knows, after all, that the BBC is an omniscient organisation. Leonie once had a call from a woman who wanted to know where she could buy a nuclear fallout shelter with a cat flap. When Michelle Fowler failed to get married on *EastEnders*, five women rang to ask where she got her suit and they have had numerous requests for the telephone number of the Queen Vic. A man once rang from Calcutta to enquire about the weather at Lord's cricket ground that afternoon and a woman wanted to know if it would be safe to hang out her washing. And numerous people have wanted to know over the years if Tony Robinson was Anna Robinson's son.

The office gets its fair share of anoraks and people after quiz answers. There's nothing like a *Dr Who* fan for wanting to know the precise dates of all transmissions at 11 o'clock at night. "You have to be a bit of an anorak to work here," says Leonie. Like many people who work on the telephone, her colleagues have that uncanny ability to carry on two conversations at once. "What's the name of the actor?" says Nigel Hill, a librarian by qualification and four years into the job. "It was John Nettles. You're welcome. Goodbye." He turns to us. "I'm not an anorak. I'm just an informed expert." They all chuckle.

Information, of course, is a blanket term as far as the licence-fee payer is concerned: everyone knows, after all, that the BBC is an omniscient organisation. Leonie once had a call from a woman who wanted to know where she could buy a nuclear fallout shelter with a cat flap. When Michelle Fowler failed to get married on *EastEnders*, five women rang to ask where she got her suit and they have had numerous requests for the telephone number of the Queen Vic. A man once rang from Calcutta to enquire about the weather at Lord's cricket ground that afternoon and a woman wanted to know if it would be safe to hang out her washing. And numerous people have wanted to know over the years if Tony Robinson was Anna Robinson's son.

"Comment," as they studiously label the random complaints of the mutters on the streets, is religiously collated and turned into a daily log for the consumption of high-ups and programme makers. This isn't just a palliative exercise: considerable attention is paid to comment, both pleasant and

adverse, and adjustments are made as far as they can be. At the top of the rota comes scheduling (or alterations thereto), sports programmes and anything that gets high ratings. After that, it's a bit of a free for all. Past comment has included a complaint during the D-Day celebrations that the BBC was biased against Hitler and a stated belief that Maradona Hussey is a communist. "We get people moaning about the fact that Ireland has won the Eurovision Song Contest again," says Leonie. "As if we could do anything about it." Rather satisfyingly, the individual who garners complaints whenever he appears is Sir Bernard Ingham, Jimmy Hill, Danny Baker and Dale Winton figure high as well. Complaints soar when Jeremy Paxman isn't on. Nigel thinks it's a sexual thing. "It's always women, and they always have that tone in their voice when they say his name."

They are a close team. They have to be. "It's a stressful job and we're really the only people we can talk to about it: no one else gets the point," Jeremy Aspinall, a history graduate who has been at this game for 18 months, explains. One thing they absolutely don't do is admit what they do for a living at parties. Unless, that is, they want an hour's run-down on their interlocutor's personal sitcom bugbears. So they share their weirder experiences among themselves, prop each other up, have a mystery syndicate, and even went off to Paris together for a weekend last year. "Most of the people who call are really nice," says Lennie, "but it has to be said that some people who ring are completely insane."

By 9.30pm ample evidence of this is building up. Only two warriors, Jeremy Aspinall and the supervisor Brian Andrews, are left to hold the fort. It's like watching Canute holding back the tide: Wimbledon has overrun and cut into the athletics, everybody hates Cliff, one of the papers has given the wrong time for *Timewatch* and everyone who remembers Cullooden has a pen'north to put in about the Stone of Scone.

Listening to Jeremy cope with whatever is thrown at him is an exercise in surrealism comparable only with *Supermarket Sweep*. The only predictable thing is how the call will start. "Good evening, BBC Information. How can I help you?" After that, it's anybody's guess.

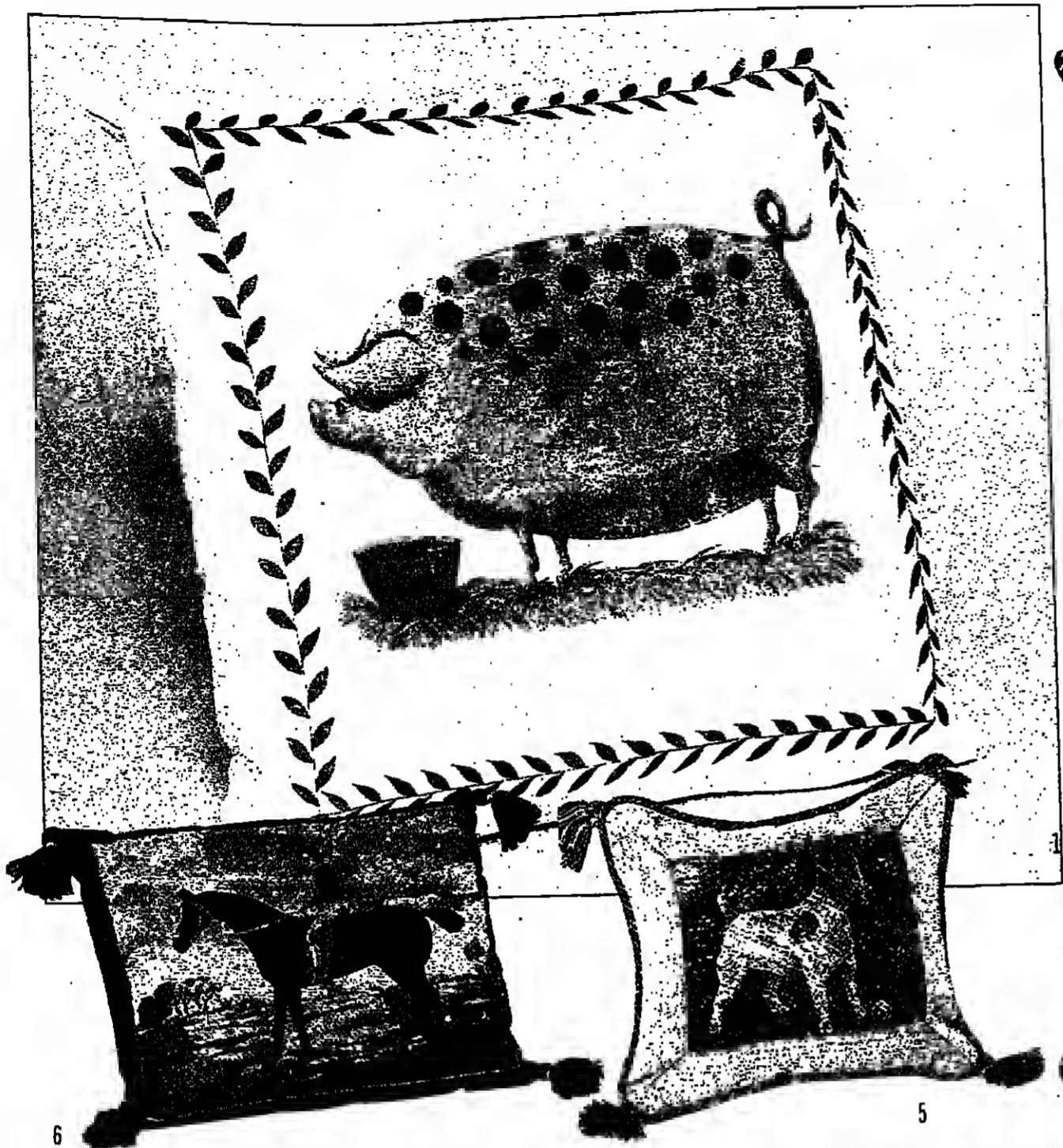
"I'm sorry, I don't have a telephone number for *Hearts of Gold*, but I can give you an address. Oh. Do you know anybody who can write?" The chairman is Christopher Bland. The director-general is John Birt. Yes, I suppose if you called a member of staff an arsehole they might have cause to be offended... no, I'm not going to call the police on you but I can pass your complaint on." "Perhaps you finish programming the video by pressing the power button, that might work. Oh, good. You're welcome."

Someone rings for the number of the speaking clock. "123, I think," says Jeremy. "No," replies the caller, "that only works in Britain. I need the number from Portugal." A rash of complaints about the same trailer comes from Bristol. It's quite common, apparently, for complainants to get their friends to back them up. Virtually everyone who was offended by *Oranges are not the Only Fruit* came from Manchester.

Leonie fields a call. "Hello, BBC Information. Well, we don't have music on our answerphone because you have to pay a copyright fee every time you play a piece of music, and we receive so many calls that it would mean the licence fee would be higher. You're welcome." Meanwhile, Jeremy is nodding patiently. "It was stolen from Westminster in 1950? Thank you, I'll pass that on."

Brian, who has been sitting in a corner registering opinions with one hand and editing the log with the other, wanders over for a breather. We talk about the regulars, how they are more evident at Christmas and holiday periods. "Sometimes," says Leonie, "you find yourself on the tube looking at people and and thinking: 'Did I speak to you today?'" "I once found myself next to one on the bus," says Brian. "I recognised him instantly from his voice: he had a terrible stutter. He used to ring up every week and ask which song the dancers were going to dance to on *Top of the Pops*. He started trying to talk to me and I had to pretend not to hear."

Six of the best animal cushion covers



1 Naive pig, (£25 filled, price includes delivery). This portly pig is just one of a range of naive animal cushions which includes hens, ducks, cockerels, giraffes and elephants. Made from handwashable cotton. By mail order from A-R Interiors (0171 730 1536).

2 Giraffe print cushion (filled) from around £49. Tired of leopard spots and tiger prints? Try giraffe. This luxurious cushion feels like the softest silk and is the next best thing to baving a real giraffe strolling around your sitting room. For stockists call The How Partnership (0171 359 2450).

3 Grazing Friesian Cows, ref: SBR 016 (£19.95 filled). Support British cows by buying this bovine cushion. The beauty of this graphic cow cushion is its stark simplicity. The cushion pad is nice and squidgey too. Call Bombay Duck for further information (0181 873 8882).

4 Heraldic Rampant Unicorn, (with curled feather pad) from £60 plus VAT. Scenic artist Julie Perren hand paints original artwork directly onto silk dupion. Not really one to lounge on – more for attracting admiring glances. Call Perren Design (0181 873 0339) for stockists.

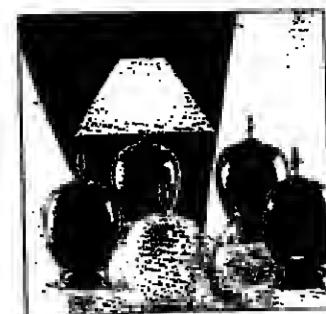
Stylist: Julie Aschkenasy. Photographer: Tony Buckingham



5 Jack Russell cushion with tassels ref: mc58 (mini size £19.95) £29 filled. This Jack Russell is one of a range of animal tapestry cushions inspired by antique designs. The ideal birthday gift for great aunts everywhere. Available from Sussex House (0171 371 5455).

6 Stubbs horse cushion ref: mc36 (£24 padded). Who says the only place for art is on the wall. Stubbs' 'Gimcrack', circa 1765, works just as well in cushion form. It comes with a velvet back and tassels. The original painting is held in the Fitzwilliam Museum, Cambridge. From Sussex House, as before.

The thing about... speakers



You decide to improve your living environment with some new audio equipment: maybe the burglars have been in and had the old lot, maybe you're replacing your old Dansette, maybe you want to impress the chics. Whatever, you go to your nearest audio emporium and approach an assistant. He (this is not a casual use of the pronoun) will look at you as if he's just unscrewed the overflow panel on the kitchen sink and come reluctantly from behind the glass cabinet full of Walkmans armed for battle.

Buying a stereo is a rite of passage: an ordeal everyone has to go through to achieve full adulthood. To leave an audio shop with what you went in for is to have taken on the world and won. Someone who works in an audio shop has one thing on his mind: his commission. He doesn't care that you live in a bedsit and haven't room for speakers eight feet tall and an amplifier large enough to give Indonesians serious fantasies about annexation. He will hit you over the head with channel statistics, get you behind the knees with wattages, deal the death blow with his tweeters, but he won't actually know what he's talking about. A customer is merely a pound sign.

The thing about audio equipment is that not only is it sold by wide boys, it's designed by anoraks. Anoraks may know everything there is to know about sound quality, but they know squishy zero about aesthetics. Would you put your interior decor in the hands of someone whose bedroom is plastered with Megadeth posters? And yet we continue to accept that the way stereos look is the only way they can look.

Speakers are the worst. One can accept that a certain number of flashing lights are a necessity on a CD player, but this belief that speakers should be seen and heard is hard to break. It is of course a hangover from the space age, when top technology was so exciting and so expensive that you

jolly well wanted everyone to see that you owned some. Nowadays, as we squeeze ourselves into ever smaller living spaces to make room for more redundant office blocks, you would have thought our priorities would have changed.

And yet, stereo equipment continues to look like stereo equipment. Only more so. The top end of the market manufacturers have grasped that design matters in gramophones, but ignore the real point. The catalogue for Bang and Olufsen's new Beosound range is full of quotes about this subject: 'A revolt against indifference and black boxes. And the way things have become, you can hardly tell whether you're looking at a toaster or a typewriter.' Lovely sentiments, but the product itself CD player and long thin black speakers you can hang on a stand or off the wall at will – still looks like CD player and speakers. Infinity speakers look like solar panels: an obvious addition to your living room. Quad Electroacoustics have designed their speakers for sonic purity but also a couple of granite gravestones look awfully silly in the corners of the average kitchen.

Still, the tide could be turning. New interior design outlet Lady Daphne (145 Sloane Street, London, SW1, tel 0171-730 1141) carries a piece of stock that breaks the mould: speaker lamps. These gorgeous objects are exactly what they sound: a pair of graceful ceramic lamps – not a hint of modernism about them – which come in five colours or your own customisation. And soakily hidden in the bottoms are a pair of 120 watt, 360 degree sound speakers. They are not cheap at £399 a pair but you're not going to get much change from £400 from Bang and Olufsen either. Plonk them on side tables in place of your Habitat ginger jars and mystify your friends. They sound great too.

Serena Mackesy

Fax: 0171 293 2505

Tel: 0171 293 2222

classified • personal

Independent Hearts

Replies should be addressed to the relevant box number,
c/o The Independent, 1 Canada Square, Canary Wharf, London E14 5DL

BRISTOL, EXETER & TRURO
Caroline Crowther
Exclusive introductions
0117 9735877.

THE DINNER CLUB (Est. 1989). The nation's only countrywide dining service for unattached professional business people aged 20-35. Tel: (01244) 385250. Also available 01524 548916.

UK'S BEST singletons. Perfect details + Beautiful One Person To Person (DOP) P.O. Box. Ageing-On-Thames, RG6 9DN.

ALONE? KNOW THE FEELING? One phone call could change your life and weekends. We're here for you. 500+ members. Tel: 01952 651 515 or FAX: 01952 650 444. Other branches.

EDWARD'S GUARDIANS: LIKE mind and body adventures, ready for a quick packed time in side and out? Men & women. Tel: 01653 820 880 (anytime).

BEAUTIFUL THAI LADIES. Colour brochure and details. Tel: 01865 233 233.

EDWARDS CHALLENGE meet like the rest of us. Tel: 0171 293 2222.

SIMPLY ATTRACTIVE PROFESSIONAL WOMAN 20-40 a few weeks, evenings, weekends, books, evenings, weekends, seeks suitable or not man for a delightful summer or more. Box No L1395.

TANGENTIAL GENTLEMEN (30) with cottage seeks mildly witty women 25-35 for a few evenings, evenings, friendly, body-hairing, - honest, good conversation. Box No L1396.

PRETTY RUSSIAN GIRL, well kind and warm, seeks kind and intelligent man. Box No L1402.

Genuine male, 29, attractive, why caring, seeks similar female for companionship, romance and wonder. Leicestershire. Box No L1387.

PERFECT PARTNERS OF BATH SOUTH WEST S. WALES
Personal introductions
All classes interviewed
TEL: (01225) 482808

ACADEMIC, 40, DARK, handsome, seeks 1.25-40, for long term, relationship. Tel: 0171 352 0000.

MAN, seeks assertive lady to teach me obedience and respect. Lasting relationship sought. Box No L1397.

HELLO? 28, wants a kind girlfriend from Liverpool. Box No L1398.

GOOD THERAPY, FEMALE, 26, attractive and intelligent. Loves psychology, wants to help others. Box No L1399.

DISCREET FRIENDSHIP WITH EDUCATED mature lady, sought by ancient historian, who brings interesting ideas and a broad mind. Box No L1399.

INTERESTED COLLEGE LECTURER, specifically with the characteristic of a good Chardonnay, seeks a man 20-30, intelligent, good company. Box No L1399.

MALE, 31, LIKES EVERYTHING summer, seeks woman with personality, romantic, sincere, sensible, good nature, good sense of humour, good taste, good conversation. Box No L1399.

FOR THOUGHT, concert, conversation and wine, male, 37, seeks woman with taste, good nature, good conversation. Box No L1399.

HONG KONG LADY, 31, young, seeking a man, who enjoys wine, good conversation. Photo & letter appreciated. All letters answered. Box No L1399.

MAN, 34, 5'9", attractive, enjoys reading, nature, good discussions, would like to meet women, interests in music and sport. Box No L1399.

INTERESTED in meeting with a good Chardonnay, seeks a man 20-30, specifically nice and non-boastful. Enthusiastic, good sense of humour, good taste for sharing and companionship. Box No L1399.

ATTRACTIVE LADY, 48, slim, sensitive, attractive, seeks suitable or not man for a long-term relationship. Tel: 0171 293 2222.

ATTRACTION, 40, slim, attractive, seeks compatible attractive girl for sharing & dressing. Box No L1399.

LIFE IS MORE FUN with two people but pretty girl's life would like to meet lovely, thoughtful, HNL girl. NLS girl to share things with. Box No L1399.

PIRATE ADVENTURER, SPIRITUAL, intelligent, software, creative, 47, loves life-hobbies to balance. Wants compatible, slim, attractive, 30-40. London. Box No L1399.

BEST VINTAGE, 1957, dark, handsome, successful, caring, sharp, single, 30-40, seeks woman with taste, country, culture, art, historic places, linen sheets. Tel: 0171 293 2222.

LOVELY LADY, 43, seeks compatible, attractive, 30-40, from the countryside, good food & wine. NLS. Enjoys walking, good taste, easy going. Box No L1399.

CREATIVELY ATTRACTIVE 32 seeks woman who is creative, compatible attractive girl for sharing & dressing. Box No L1399.

UNAPPRECIATED? Tel Guy seeks special lady. GSOH for discrete introductions. Box No L1399.

TALL, SLIM, ACTIVE, sensible 50 yr old, single female, romantic, attractive, NLS. Tel: 0171 293 2222.

Pretty woman, 48, slim, attractive, compatible, seeks compatible, 30-40, from the countryside, good food & wine. NLS. Tel: 0171 293 2222.

UNAPPROPRIATE? Tel Guy seeks special lady. GSOH for discrete introductions. Box No L1399.

UNAPPROPRIATE? Tel Guy seeks special lady. GSOH for discrete introductions. Box No L1399.

UNAPPROPRIATE? Tel Guy seeks special lady. GSOH for discrete introductions. Box No L1399.

UNAPPROPRIATE? Tel Guy seeks special lady. GSOH for discrete introductions. Box No L1399.

UNAPPROPRIATE? Tel Guy seeks special lady. GSOH for discrete introductions. Box No L1399.

UNAPPROPRIATE? Tel Guy seeks special lady. GSOH for discrete introductions. Box No L1399.

UNAPPROPRIATE? Tel Guy seeks special lady. GSOH for discrete introductions. Box No L1399.

UNAPPROPRIATE? Tel Guy seeks special lady. GSOH for discrete introductions. Box No L1399.

UNAPPROPRIATE? Tel Guy seeks special lady. GSOH for discrete introductions. Box No L1399.

UNAPPROPRIATE? Tel Guy seeks special lady. GSOH for discrete introductions. Box No L1399.

UNAPPROPRIATE? Tel Guy seeks special lady. GSOH for discrete introductions. Box No L1399.

UNAPPROPRIATE? Tel Guy seeks special lady. GSOH for discrete introductions. Box No L1399.

UNAPPROPRIATE? Tel Guy seeks special lady. GSOH for discrete introductions. Box No L1399.

UNAPPROPRIATE? Tel Guy seeks special lady. GSOH for discrete introductions. Box No L1399.

UNAPPROPRIATE? Tel Guy seeks special lady. GSOH for discrete introductions. Box No L1399.

UNAPPROPRIATE? Tel Guy seeks special lady. GSOH for discrete introductions. Box No L1399.

UNAPPROPRIATE? Tel Guy seeks special lady. GSOH for discrete introductions. Box No L1399.

UNAPPROPRIATE? Tel Guy seeks special lady. GSOH for discrete introductions. Box No L1399.

UNAPPROPRIATE? Tel Guy seeks special lady. GSOH for discrete introductions. Box No L1399.

UNAPPROPRIATE? Tel Guy seeks special lady. GSOH for discrete introductions. Box No L1399.

UNAPPROPRIATE? Tel Guy seeks special lady. GSOH for discrete introductions. Box No L1399.

UNAPPROPRIATE? Tel Guy seeks special lady. GSOH for discrete introductions. Box No L1399.

UNAPPROPRIATE? Tel Guy seeks special lady. GSOH for discrete introductions. Box No L1399.

UNAPPROPRIATE? Tel Guy seeks special lady. GSOH for discrete introductions. Box No L1399.

UNAPPROPRIATE? Tel Guy seeks special lady. GSOH for discrete introductions. Box No L1399.

UNAPPROPRIATE? Tel Guy seeks special lady. GSOH for discrete introductions. Box No L1399.

UNAPPROPRIATE? Tel Guy seeks special lady. GSOH for discrete introductions. Box No L1399.

UNAPPROPRIATE? Tel Guy seeks special lady. GSOH for discrete introductions. Box No L1399.

UNAPPROPRIATE? Tel Guy seeks special lady. GSOH for discrete introductions. Box No L1399.

UNAPPROPRIATE? Tel Guy seeks special lady. GSOH for discrete introductions. Box No L1399.

UNAPPROPRIATE? Tel Guy seeks special lady. GSOH for discrete introductions. Box No L1399.

UNAPPROPRIATE? Tel Guy seeks special lady. GSOH for discrete introductions. Box No L1399.

UNAPPROPRIATE? Tel Guy seeks special lady. GSOH for discrete introductions. Box No L1399.

UNAPPROPRIATE? Tel Guy seeks special lady. GSOH for discrete introductions. Box No L1399.

UNAPPROPRIATE? Tel Guy seeks special lady. GSOH for discrete introductions. Box No L1399.

UNAPPROPRIATE? Tel Guy seeks special lady. GSOH for discrete introductions. Box No L1399.

UNAPPROPRIATE? Tel Guy seeks special lady. GSOH for discrete introductions. Box No L1399.

UNAPPROPRIATE? Tel Guy seeks special lady. GSOH for discrete introductions. Box No L1399.

UNAPPROPRIATE? Tel Guy seeks special lady. GSOH for discrete introductions. Box No L1399.

UNAPPROPRIATE? Tel Guy seeks special lady. GSOH for discrete introductions. Box No L1399.

UNAPPROPRIATE?</b

shopping

Eighty years old and the doyenne of English country house style is still putting on the chintz

By Caroline Donald



Jean Monro: a natural inclination towards the right mix

Photograph: Edward Sykes

In other times and circumstances, Jean Monro would have made an excellent diplomat. During the course of our conversation not a bad word is said about anyone: the great and the good are, invariably, "a great friend of mine", and awkward questions are subtly deflected by well-rehearsed anecdotes that show her work in the best light. But after a successful wartime stint in military government, she became an interior decorator and joined the company established by her mother - Mrs Monro - which celebrates its 70th anniversary next week with a party for 400 at Christie's. Miss Monro celebrated her own 80th birthday last month.

Discretion is the name of the game in both diplomacy and working for the wealthy. Whereas Miss Monro (like that other "doyenne", Miss Muir, one would never dream of calling her Jean) is delighted to drop the names of her smarter public clients at regular points during our conversation - Moët et Chandon, the National Trust, the Bath Preservation Trust, Rio Tinto Zinc, the Foreign Secretary's residence at No 1 Carlton Terrace - she refuses, in the nicest possible way, to tell me the name of the villa she has just decorated in Italy, but reveals that Penelope Hobhouse, "a great friend of mine", has designed the garden. With contemporary security risks to take into consideration, this is a very obvious precaution, but it was also this discretion which won Mrs Monro and, later, her daughter, their first clients - friends who had admired the former's good taste in her own home.

Nowadays, influenced by the Americans who "regard you as a professional, like a doctor", having your home done up by a smart interior decorator is something to flaunt. "But the sort of people who were my mother and father's friends would have regarded it as rather an insult to hire a decorator," says Miss Monro. "They thought they would know themselves what to do. That is where my mother was particularly good because she was very tactful. I learnt from her how to deal with people who were rather grand and didn't really want to be told what to do." Indeed, it was not until after the war that Mrs Monro even considered being paid for her advice on top of materials and only now, as a concession to American demands, is the company bringing out a publicity brochure.

The "tact" learnt by Miss Monro applies not only to personal relationships with clients, but to the houses that are to be decorated. Whereas some designers like to impose their personality on everything, down to co-ordinated valances and waste-paper baskets, one of Miss Monro's favourite lines is that she does not like people to be able to walk into a room and say: "That's a Jean Monro!" Although her signature is the beautiful chintz she uses for soft furnishings, her style is that of her background - Scottish descent upper-middle class - with a comfortable clutter of collected and handed-down furniture, "objets" and pictures, and a healthy disregard for fashion.

Her talent, aided by the unceasing love affair with the British country house style indulged in particularly by the Americans, has been to adapt

through the decades to cliques from walks of life far away from the grouse moors - including banks in Chicago, a host of cruise ships and houses all over the world. "That is the great art," she says. "To suit the house and the people who live in it. You can be perfectly modern and still be very comfortable. One must never be rigid. You have to treat each house and customer differently." The glory days of chintz may have passed as a fashion but it is always easy to live with.

The doctor has now ordered Miss Monro to slow down a bit, following a bout of shingles, so she is planning on retiring from rushing around the world on active decorating work. But it is hardly a twilight life she is planning; she will remain a consultant for Mrs Monro and is planning on attending a painting course in the Luberon. There is a book to be written. Having already penned a jolly autobiography, *17 Montpelier Street* (where the firm was based for over 60 years), about all the marvellous friends she has made and delightful places she has visited in her work, this one will be full of handy tips for young decorators.

"Sir Joshua Reynolds wrote that taste does not come by chance, it is the result of long and laborious labour, which is absolutely true," she says. "A lot of people nowadays take short cuts and you can't. For instance, I went into a house not very long ago, and as soon as I came into the room, I thought, 'my God!' They had put the chair rail back but they had got it far too high and it upset the whole proportion of the room. The pictures looked wrong and the skirting

board too low. All these things are terribly important. It's rather like cooking: if you don't get the proportions right, you don't get the result."

Having a natural inclination towards getting the mix right is what Miss Monro refers to as having "The Eye". Colour is also important, and you must be prepared to adapt to the environment around you. Painting a north-facing room in Scotland blue, for instance, is a recipe for freezing disaster. "You've got to do your homework if you are dealing with a very good house. A lot of people, especially young decorators, who have had the chance to travel as much as I have, don't get things like the light right. What is good in Australia, won't be good in England and what is good in the south of France possibly wouldn't be good in Normandy or Brittany. I think one has to write the sort of book that will help because there are all sorts of dodges one learns over the years."

It would seem that some of those dodges have already been passed on. Miss Monro recounts how she recently saw a girl using tape and handkerchiefs to measure how long a pelmet should be in a room she was decorating. "I said, 'where did you learn that?' and she said: 'my aunt used to know an old girl who decorates,' and I asked her where was that old girl, and she said 'in Montpelier Street'. I thought it was lovely. It made my day."

Mrs Monro, 16 Motcomb St, London, SW1X 8LB (0171-235 0326)

Nicholas Haslam, Interior designer
"Her look has been very strong, in a certain world, for forty years or so but it isn't current. The look she achieves - like a florist almost - was paramount some 10 to 15 years ago (and will doubtless come back). She has always achieved the most lovely colour ways with all her chintz. It's a pretty look without being saccharine. I think she is a wonderful woman."



Ilsa Crawford, editor Elle Decoration
"Miss Monro invented big strong chintz. She is the grand dame of chintz. Because it was so immensely strong it will come round again. It's always strong the originals that have come back factor. You can already see big fat flowers coming through in fashion for next spring. Interiors take longer to come around. But what goes around comes around; so watch this space."



Lady Jane Churchill, interior designer
"I have used her fabrics. There were years when her chintz was very appealing. Now though people are now going for a much plainer look; it's had its day. Things move on, in the architectural world as well as the interiors world. You wouldn't want them to stay the same."



Nina Campbell, interior designer
"Miss Monro is like an institution, so sound, she represents a type of interior design that is never affected by fashion - comforting and right. To me, she's like boiled eggs and soldiers. She's England's answer to Sister Parish. She taught me to appreciate classic chintz. Her own chintzes are beautiful and what I like about them is that they are never over used. She's the ultimate in discretion."



Antony Little, interior designer
"Miss Monro is a very important contributor to the revival of classic English country house decorating. She's such a great influence because of her thorough knowledge of interior design itself. Together with people like John Fowler and Philip Jebs, classic English style is now internationally appreciated and, of course imitated. She's proved that design without knowledge and understanding just doesn't work. By appreciating very important areas such as composition, balance, drawing and colour sense, she's shown that design is just about fashion but needs substance to make it last."



Min Hogg, editor The World of Interiors
"Thank god for people like Jean Monro, who doesn't give a fig for the comings and goings of fashion, but who goes on producing and reproducing her unashamedly lovely materials that look so right in equally fashion-free English houses."



bazaar

Top ten

The Wimbledon Tennis Museum Shop is doing brisk business this week. Best sellers include anything in the championship colours: purple, green and white.

1 Championship sweatshirts.....	£29.50	6 Socks.....	£4.00
2 T-shirts.....	£12.00	7 Wimbledon teddy bears.....	£11.50
3 Club colour baseball hats.....	£5.00	8 Tennis ball keyrings.....	£2.00
4 Championship towels.....	£21.00	9 Wedgwood mugs with logo.....	£16.00
5 Umbrellas.....	£23.00	10 Pens.....	£1.20

Checkout

The Cooler, 67 Stoke Newington Church St, London NW3

Concept: Filled with peculiar and unusual treats for people with adventurous taste buds.

Customers: Bohemian, intellectual and earthy types decked out in faded smocks and oversized knit-wear. Mothers and toddlers will be found in the non-smoking cafe where both newspapers and toys are provided.

Best Buys: Grand Gourmet's escargot kits, £6.25 which contain impressive

looking snail shells, a tin of snails with a recipe for the butter sauce.

Worth trying: Laver Bread from Welsh Mountain Garden; a pesto sauce made from seaweed, £4.95.

Favourite item: Carolina Swamp Stuff's dressings and marinades, £3.95. Try 'Cedar Spray', coriander, lime juice and curry, or 'Blue Tick', a lively concoction of raspberries and poppy seeds.

Good thing

Smoby's Magic Plastic, £39.99 for starter set, additional kits £14.99



Keep idle hands busy this summer with granules that sprinkle into water to make a malleable plastic blob. When you're happy with your creation plunge it into cool water to set. Change your mind? No problem - just melt it down again.

Toys 'R' Us stores nationwide

Mad thing
Tap pillow, £17.99 plus £2 p&p



Solve those frustrating squabbles over who gets the tap-end of a shared bath with this cunning inflatable pillow which fits neatly over the taps.

Monument Trading Company, call 01865 400638

gardening

THE ONLY LAWNMOWER THAT'S AS RELIABLE AS A HONDA CAR.



It's called a Honda Lawnmower. And it's built with all the same engineering skills and precision as a Honda car.

A powerful smooth-running engine. Electronic ignition for easy starting.

And the kind of dependable performance that enables us to give them a full 5-year warranty*. So you know they're built to last.

Honda lawnmower prices start from as little as £139 inc VAT.

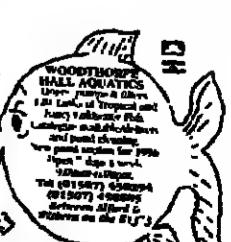
So phone 0800 378036 or clip the coupon for further details. And get years of reliable mowing.

HONDA
LAWN MOWERS
Built without compromise

Bloms Bulbs

We offer the finest bulbs and plants coupled with excellent service and expert advice. Over 400 varieties are illustrated in our colour catalogue, amongst these are Tulips which have won 47 Gold Medals at the Chelsea Flower Show. You Can't Beat Bloms For Quality and Choice. For your FREE catalogue write to:

Bloms Bulbs Ltd.
Dept B, Bloms Nurseries,
Melscombe, Bed M144 1ZC
or phone 01234 700999 (24hr)



arts

DANCE

Un Moto di Gioia, RFH, London
Not even Mozart could redeem a shoddy performance by Rosas. By Louise Levere

A dvise to theatre managers: if you don't let them into the auditorium, they can't start a slow handclap. Wednesday night's Festival Hall audience for Anne Teresa de Keersmaeker's only British date had to confine its disapproval at a 30-minute delay to tutting into their gis and tonics.

When we were finally ushered in, it was explained that the late start was due to a technical difficulty. And how. Jean-Luc Ducourt's lighting design was a subtle and intriguing affair that shaped and modified Herman Sorgho's glossy parquet circle with sequences that mimicked sun, moon and stars. At least I think that was the idea, but it was hard to be certain as the entire enterprise was periodically plunged into total darkness as if the South Bank were run on a meter. However, we weren't there for the lighting but to catch up on De Keersmaeker, queen of continental choreographers, and her latest offering *Mozart / Concert Arias, Un Moto di Gioia (A Movement of Joy)*. Unhappily, the only movement of joy was when, two long hours later, I rose from my seat.

De Keersmaeker's piece uses 13 dancers, three sopranos and Jos van Immerseel's period instrument orchestra *Animus Eterna*. The sopranos perform centre-stage and form part of the action just as the words they sing inspire it. A relentlessly playful tone is set when the opening soloist delivers her aria while a male dancer capers around her with the persistence of a wasp. He repeatedly falls towards her only to tilt the floor and roll smoothly back on to his feet. It's a neat trick, but it is performed throughout the piece with mind-numbing regularity. Other De Keersmaeker motifs crop up with similar frequency: women crawl across the stage with the jittery velocity of beetles, men engage in extended bouts of synchronised pogon and everyone swaps clothes over and over again. De Keersmaeker presumably imagines that this cross-dressing cast will reflect the travesti elements in Mozart's operas and that having her dancers run the full gamut of Belgian whimsy (goosing the sopranos and winking at the audience) will give a sense of the composer's humour.

By selecting Mozart as a posthumous collaborator, and showing her good taste in music, De Keersmaeker has exposed her own weaknesses. Faced with an evening of exquisite arias sung by fine voices to an excellent ensemble, the simultaneous capers of a dozen dancers become an impudent irrelevance. A full-scale lighting failure would have left us alone with Mozart.

TELEVISION

Savannah (ITV)

Woa! Slow down a minute. Jasper Rees suffers from plot fatigue after only three episodes of the soap that lends new meaning to the words 'tangled' and 'web'

It took years for anyone to get round to shooting *JR. Savannah* has the look and texture of *Dallas* - lip implants the size of sausages, amphetamine French horn in the titles sequence, that ol' southern moderation - but it has nothing like the patience. We've just had episode three of this soap on skates and already we know Who Killed Travis.

Some viewers may have thought they'd cleared up this mystery on their own. In episode one you definitely saw Peyton glue her married

MUSIC A Mass of Life, St Paul's Cathedral

The congregation feared sacrilege, the Archdeacon preached forgiveness - and Delius's neglected Nietzschean hymn rose again in glory. By Stephen Johnson



Richard Hickox rehearses the Birmingham Symphony Chorus
Photo: Keith Dobney

Nietzsche in St Paul's? The news that a performance of Delius's *A Mass of Life* was booked for the Cathedral part of the City of London Festival apparently drew letters of protest from a goodly company of metropolitan Christians. So many, in fact, that the Archdeacon, the Venerable George Cassidy, felt it necessary to say a few words on the subject. 10 minutes before Wednesday's performance.

Those hoping for a ringing denunciation were disappointed - not only because of the feeble amplification. The Archdeacon had read the text drawn from *Also Sprach Zarathustra*, and pronounced its "affirmation of life" acceptable. Good for him: Nietzsche's famous remark "God is dead" (not quoted in Delius's *Mass*) is widely misinterpreted; and brief synopses of *Zarathustra* tend to sound rather like Christ's "The Kingdom of God is within you". Anyway, if Christians want to go distancing themselves from dubious texts, they could start a lot closer to home: the Book of Joshua, for instance, reads today like an extended hymn to ethnic cleansing. Should we allow things like that in church? As Jesus said, take the beam from your own eye before you go looking for motes in other people's.

In the event, the evening was a triumphant vindication of Delius's grandest choral work. The Cathedral's hyper-swimming-bath acoustic suits very few musical works, and some of the more densely textured parts of the *Mass* blurred chaotically. But there were many

more passages in which the music blossomed: the lazily intertwining oboe / cor anglais / bass oboe lines of "High Noon on the Meadow"; or the softly echoing horns heralding Part 2. Verily, this is a gorgeous piece, but it can also be deeply touching - for instance, the aching harmonic twist at the baritone's words, "Hush, the world is perfect". Delius understood the pathos of Nietzsche far better than did Richard Strauss in his more famous tone-poem. Strauss's concluding "Midnight's Song" is an opulent orchestral display; Delius's is a true emotional culmination - calm, radiant, but with a vein of sadness. Is all this self-intoxication a response to intense loneliness? Nietzsche's biographies tend to confirm that view.

From the way Richard Hickox conducted *A Mass of Life*, one would guess that he had been looking forward to it for years. From start to finish, he had the measure of the piece: spacious, expansive, but never diffuse. The Bournemouth Symphony Chorus plainly enjoyed the St Paul's acoustic - generous reverberation can make singers feel a lot more secure - and their sense of pitch was strong in even the most tortuously chromatic passages. The Bournemouth Symphony Orchestra too opened out in tone and expression. Peter Coleman-Wright was as firm as ever, and twice as warm (especially compelling in "Midnight's Song"), and none of the rest of the solo team - Joan Rodgers, Jean Rigby and Nigel Robson - let him down in any way. A glorious evening: though I suspect it was even more glorious for Radio 3 listeners at home.

THEATRE

Long Day's Journey into Night
David Benedict applauds a Young Vic production that gets there in style

At worst, Eugene O'Neill's masterpiece can seem like *Who's Afraid of Virginia Woolf?* without the laughs. At best, this colossal play stands as the greatest realist drama since Ibsen. It really shouldn't work. The action is negligible, the dialogue is too weighty for its own good and the theme is monolithic but his passionate sincerity turns the problems into a triumph.

Consumptive would-be poet Edmund (read O'Neill) lives with his failed actor brother and their parents, all rattling around in varying states of distress in their New England summer home. His wealthy but right-fisted father is a washed-up actor and alcoholic while his mother is a methadone addict. There's enough family dysfunction in this scalping drama of accusation and recrimination for an entire series of *Orpah*.

Director Laurence Boswell knows that the job here is to reveal and balance the architecture, building it brick by brick into a magnificent edifice. He sets up a bold rhythm, overlapping dialogue in the opening scene, vividly conveying the ceaseless nature of the arguments. Elsewhere, his control of stillness pays off handsomely. However, the lack of a unifying acting style isolates the characters and lowers the temperature.

The rumpled Richard Johnson, his ravaged face crumpling in horror at his wife's descent into drugs, suggests the weight of the tyrant with admirable simplicity but lacks his fearlessness. He wants you to like his character too much, thus defusing the danger. Mark Lambert pulls in the opposite direction, emphasising Jamie's traits at the expense of the long haul although his extreme drunkenness is brave. Paul Rhys accrues shrugs, flailing hands and gaunt physical intensity into a detailed portrait but tries too hard to act *Edmund's* frustration. That's a state of mind not a dramatic drive. We need to see something more active. Ironically, the frustration shines through at his moment of serenity when he tells of the happiest days of his life, and the actor finally relaxes.

Penelope Wilton is simply outstanding as Mary. At times, her transfixing presence makes you blind to everyone else on stage. Courageously playing against the lines, she uses self-deprecating comedy to exquisite, painfully funny effect and her sudden bursts of pain and hiltlessness are deeply shocking. The play itself is reason enough for going. Her heartrending performance makes attendance compulsory.

Booking: 0171-928 6363 to 10 Aug

Next week on the arts pages

MONDAY Georgina Brown meets Cameron Mackintosh, the impresario behind London's newest musical blockbuster. Plus: Jasper Rees joins the throng to see the Three Tenors bid London "hello and goodbye" - at £995 (plus VAT) a throw
TUESDAY Mark Wareham watches as Bill Cosby brings his show to the Albert Hall
WEDNESDAY Camp? Jim Carrey? Mark Simpson unravels the boy's own humour behind *The Cable Guy*. Plus: Naseem Khan on *The Dead Good Funerals Book*
THURSDAY How opera's latest "dream couple" measured up to Verdi's *La Traviata*
FRIDAY Julia Margaret Cameron - poetic music or photographic pioneer? Plus: the pick of the pop and classical CDs of the week



THE PLAY
BY JEEVES

Overview

Alan Ayckbourn directs a completely new version of his 1975 collaboration with Andrew Lloyd Webber: the megaflop *Jeeves with Malcolm Sinclair in the title role and the all-singing, all-dancing Steven Pacey as Wooster*.

THE FILM

MISSION: IMPOSSIBLE

THE OPERA
IDOMENEO

Mozart's opera series, the final piece in the Gauntlett season, designed and directed by David Fielding. *Siân Edwards* conducts a cast including *Meagan Plaister* making her debut plus *Joan Rivers* and *Jon Garrison*.

THE INDEPENDENT

Hardwood Garden Furniture from £ 59.99 (inc. carriage).

Ideal for outdoor and conservatory use, this high quality garden furniture is exceptional value.

The furniture is made from Bagtahan, a heavy hardwood timber from sustained forestry resources, sanded to a smooth finish and treated with teak oil to enhance its looks and durability.

Constructed to a high standard, using mortise and tenon joints, it can be left outdoors in all seasons and requires minimal maintenance - just a coat of teak oil once or twice a year.

The 4ft (122cm) bench costs £ 89.99, and the 5ft (152cm) is just £ 99.99. The chairs cost £ 69.99 and are 62cm wide. Both benches and the chair, measure 90cm high by 62cm deep. The coffee table costs just £ 59.99 and measures 90cm long, 45cm wide and 41cm high.

The furniture is delivered flat-packed but each item is easily constructed from four separate pieces which slot together to give a professional finish. UK mainland carriage is included in the offer price.

HOW TO ORDER - Fill in the coupon and send together with cheque or postal orders. NO CASH PLEASE TO: THE INDEPENDENT GARDEN FURNITURE OFFER (IND 512) P.O.BOX 222, CHATHAM, KENT, ME4 4PG.

For Access/Visa orders, please phone 01634 401888 (24 hours a day, 7 days a week). Telephone 01634 401888 for all enquiries.

We deliver to addresses in the UK only. Please allow up to 28 days for delivery from receipt of order. Return within 7 days for refund if not completely satisfied. Offer subject to availability.

For English VISA orders, please phone 01634 401888 (24 hours a day, 7 days a week). Telephone 01634 401888 for all enquiries.

For Access/Visa orders, please phone 01634 401888 (24 hours a day, 7 days a week). Telephone 01634 401888 for all enquiries.

For Access/Visa orders, please phone 01634 401888 (24 hours a day, 7 days a week). Telephone 01634 401888 for all enquiries.

For Access/Visa orders, please phone 01634 401888 (24 hours a day, 7 days a week). Telephone 01634 401888 for all enquiries.

For Access/Visa orders, please phone 01634 401888 (24 hours a day, 7 days a week). Telephone 01634 401888 for all enquiries.

For Access/Visa orders, please phone 01634 401888 (24 hours a day, 7 days a week). Telephone 01634 401888 for all enquiries.

For Access/Visa orders, please phone 01634 401888 (24 hours a day, 7 days a week). Telephone 01634 401888 for all enquiries.

For Access/Visa orders, please phone 01634 401888 (24 hours a day, 7 days a week). Telephone 01634 401888 for all enquiries.

For Access/Visa orders, please phone 01634 401888 (24 hours a day, 7 days a week). Telephone 01634 401888 for all enquiries.

For Access/Visa orders, please phone 01634 401888 (24 hours a day, 7 days a week). Telephone 01634 401888 for all enquiries.

For Access/Visa orders, please phone 01634 401888 (24 hours a day, 7 days a week). Telephone 01634 401888 for all enquiries.

For Access/Visa orders, please phone 01634 401888 (24 hours a day, 7 days a week). Telephone 01634 401888 for all enquiries.

For Access/Visa orders, please phone 01634 401888 (24 hours a day, 7 days a week). Telephone 01634 401888 for all enquiries.

For Access/Visa orders, please phone 01634 401888 (24 hours a day, 7 days a week). Telephone 01634 401888 for all enquiries.

For Access/Visa orders, please phone 01634 401888 (24 hours a day, 7 days a week). Telephone 01634 401888 for all enquiries.

For Access/Visa orders, please phone 01634 401888 (24 hours a day, 7 days a week). Telephone 01634 401888 for all enquiries.

For Access/Visa orders, please phone 01634 401888 (24 hours a day, 7 days a week). Telephone 01634 401888 for all enquiries.

For Access/Visa orders, please phone 01634 401888 (24 hours a day, 7 days a week). Telephone 01634 401888 for all enquiries.

For Access/Visa orders, please phone 01634 401888 (24 hours a day, 7 days a week). Telephone 01634 401888 for all enquiries.

For Access/Visa orders, please phone 01634 401888 (24 hours a day, 7 days a week). Telephone 01634 401888 for all enquiries.

For Access/Visa orders, please phone 01634 401888 (24 hours a day, 7 days a week). Telephone 01634 401888 for all enquiries.

For Access/Visa orders, please phone 01634 401888 (24 hours a day, 7 days a week). Telephone 01634 401888 for all enquiries.

For Access/Visa orders, please phone 01634 401888 (24 hours a day, 7 days a week). Telephone 01634 401888 for all enquiries.

For Access/Visa orders, please phone 01634 401888 (24 hours a day, 7 days a week). Telephone 01634 401888 for all enquiries.

For Access/Visa orders, please phone 01634 401888 (24 hours a day, 7 days a week). Telephone 01634 401888 for all enquiries.

For Access/Visa orders, please phone 01634 401888 (24 hours a day, 7 days a week). Telephone 01634 401888 for all enquiries.

For Access/Visa orders, please phone 01634 401888 (24 hours a day, 7 days a week). Telephone 01634 401888 for all enquiries.

For Access/Visa orders, please phone 01634 401888 (24 hours a day, 7 days a week). Telephone 01634 401888 for all enquiries.

For Access/Visa orders, please phone 01634 401888 (24 hours a day, 7 days a week). Telephone 01634 401888 for all enquiries.

For Access/Visa orders, please phone 01634 401888 (24 hours a day, 7 days a week). Telephone 01634 401888 for all enquiries.

For Access/Visa orders, please phone 01634 401888 (24 hours a day, 7 days a week). Telephone 01634 401888 for all enquiries.

For Access/Visa orders, please phone 01634 401888 (24 hours a day, 7 days a week). Telephone 01634 401888 for all enquiries.

For Access/Visa orders, please phone 01634 401888 (24 hours a day, 7 days a week). Telephone 01634 401888 for all enquiries.

For Access/Visa orders, please phone 01634 401888 (24 hours a day, 7 days a week). Telephone 01634 401888 for all enquiries.

For Access/Visa orders, please phone 01634 401888 (24 hours a day, 7 days a week). Telephone 01634 401888 for all enquiries.

For Access/Visa orders, please phone 01634 401888 (24 hours a day, 7 days a week). Telephone 01634 401888 for all enquiries.

For Access/Visa orders, please phone 01634 401888 (24 hours a day, 7 days a week). Telephone 01634 4

The World Service is punctilious, non-conformist, an irritant: long may it thrive

There is something about the BBC's recent structural changes that brings to mind the Vietnam War. Nothing melodramatic, you understand – no anguished comparisons with My Lai or Khe San – but there's something there, the faint sense of a high command issuing confident strategic communiques to front-line troops who long ago succumbed to sardonic mistrust or the passion for denatured jargon that recalls the US military's love of euphemism – all that talk of "pacification" and "demilitarised zones". And just as General Westmoreland had "communist insurgency" to whip the doubtful patriot into line, John Birt has "the digital future", a usefully protean and unspecified threat that can be used to justify whatever managerial changes he wishes to introduce. From White City, the generals issue their orders, glossed with brave assurance: out in the studio

bunkers crouch the abused grunts, fanfusing about "fragging" their officers. Far too strong perhaps (quite apart from the fact that grumbling was a BBC art-form long before Birt passed through its doors). But walk past Bush House on the Strand and you can see evidence of an insurrectionary spirit at work among the other ranks. Bunches of flowers have been tied to the railings, like one of those impromptu shrines that spring up at the site of a road accident. Posters explain that the tribute is in memory of "The World Service, RIP". The grieving is, of course, pre-emptive, a protest at the plans to draw English-language programming from two centralised News and Production divisions, rather than producing them in-house alongside the foreign language broadcasts. For the objectors, this threatens the very foundation of the World Service's reputation abroad – its intimacy with the domestic

THOMAS SUTCLIFFE



concerns of its listeners and the peculiarly specialised nature of its tone.

I should declare an interest here – once a week I record a short programme for BBC English department at Bush House, in which people are interviewed about personally chosen passages of

prose and poetry. I suppose this connection could be thought to create a prejudice on my part – to which I can only say that my soul is available to no one else on such modest terms. But the experience also reveals why World Service programme-makers are so anxious about amalgamation into those centralised departments. My producers are meticulous in their protective concern for their audience, scrupulous about the level of vocabulary, the exclusion of parochial references, and about exactitude of grammar – once a week, it seems, I am rebuked for pronouncing "brought" as "bought", an inexcusable sloppiness that would probably pass unnoticed in a domestic broadcast, but which they are determined will not pollute the diction of their listeners. I don't think it is sentimental to say that this degree of care is not easily separable from their attachment to the World Service itself, and to

the peculiar nature of that institution, in which international expertise is often just a short walk down the corridor.

For a tidy mind, the World Service is probably an irritant – a distant province in which the diktats of the capital are applied with flexible informality. It has never quite conformed to imperial authority and, gallingly, it introduced a home-grown form of producer choice before that vexed innovation was pressed on the rest of the BBC. But tidiness is a very poor motive for threatening an institution of such value and these changes are a threat, an erosion of hard-won virtues.

Nor is it merely sentimental or nostalgic to say that the World Service's reputation matters – it isn't just a bargain for Britain (it is funded by grant-in-aid from the Foreign and Commonwealth Office, rather than from the licence fee); it also represents a valuable asset

for the BBC in its global aspirations, a trademark of integrity and accuracy that money can't buy, but false economy could all too easily give away. BBC management would presumably argue that there is nothing false about the economics intended – though the World Service currently uses its resources as efficiently as any domestic service.

There is another problem here – in most of his public pronouncements, John Birt comes across as a man who sees the weaknesses of the institution he leads rather than its strengths. But the World Service, at least, is not vulnerable – it is immensely strong. It would be a true disgrace if its fate was to recall one of the most infamous of Vietnam's soundbites, the explanation given by an anonymous American officer when asked about the obliteration of a small rural hamlet: "In order to save the village," he said without irony, "it was necessary to destroy it."

Like comets – only more regular

Rome 1990, Los Angeles 1994, Wembley Stadium tonight. As the Three Tenors play Britain for the first (and final) time, Malcolm Hayes asks who calls the tunes, while Michael Church, right, meets the man who pays the piper

"It's like a comet that's visiting us at the moment," enthused Zubin Mehta, describing the prospect of the "Three Tenors" converging on the same concert platform at the same time. That was back in July 1990, in Rome, when Mehta himself conducted the very first Three Tenors concert the night before the Italia 90 World Cup final. "It's a phenomenon," Mehta added: "I don't know when it'll ever happen again."

Well, it's amazing how something can happen again (and again) if (a) the world loves it, and (b) the money's right. There have since been two more Three Tenors concerts – a relatively low-key affair in Monaco in May 1994 (given before a private audience with the proceeds donated to charity), and its massively hyped successor a few weeks later in Los Angeles, once again dedicated to a World Cup final. Now, as 10 major cities across the globe gear themselves up for this summer's Three Tenors World Tour, the rarity value of Pavarotti, Domingo and Carreras appearing together has long been overtaken by the reality of a regular multi-million-dollar fixture on the international classical circuit.

Six summers ago, the then unknown quantity of the Three Tenors phenomenon wasn't yet regarded as a bomb-proof money-spinner. All three are genuine football fanatics, with at least two of them still turning out to play in the odd charity match. (The young Pavarotti is said to have played the game "professionally", although it has proved difficult to track down the identity of the club in question.) Since they each had an extra-musical interest in being in Rome in July 1990, Decca – still Pavarotti's record label after more than three decades – decided to capitalise on the suddenly rocketing sales of their star tenor's vintage 1973 recording of Puccini's "Nessun Dorma" provoked by its selection as Italia 90's official theme tune.

That first concert in Rome turned out a roaring success, as were the subsequent CD sales for Decca and for Pavarotti, who collected a royalty for every disc sold. Meanwhile, Domingo and Carreras apparently sang for a flat fee apiece, reportedly in the region of £25,000. So when The Three Tenors Mark II crystallised around the 1994 World Cup Final in Los Angeles, at least two of them were quite keen to make some adjustments to the financial arrangements.

They managed rather well, courtesy of a garrulous promotional operation by Warner Music, which had outbid Decca for the rights to the 1994 concert. Pavarotti, Domingo and Carreras each netted an up-front fee of an estimated \$3 million, including an advance against CD and video royalties. This didn't prevent Warner from finding itself in profit before a note had even been sung, thanks to the revenue from television



companies broadcasting live to 1.5 billion viewers.

So to The Three Tenors Mark III. The tour kicked off, metaphorically speaking, last Saturday in Tokyo, and tonight calls in on Wembley time to catch the dying embers of the odious collective post-*Euro '96* hangover. Warner Music is sitting this one out. "It's essentially the same formula as before," says Bill Holland, managing director of Warner Classics UK. "Besides, the next one has already been pencilled in for the World Cup in France in 1998, and I'm sure we'll be considering that."

Also unchanged, on known form, is the matter of exactly when each tenor decides to sing what on the night. Interviewed backstage at 7.50pm before the Los Angeles concert, Zubin Mehta confirmed that at 7pm he still hadn't been finally informed what he'd be accompanying, and/or who would be singing it, in an hour's time. This time around, as in 1994, the two medleys have been arranged by Lalo Schifrin (currently best-known as author of the original *Mission: Impossible* theme tune), and the singers have worked out their individual numbers between themselves.

The draft result of their deliberations has just emerged from promoter Matthias Hoffmann's office in Mannheim. Even so, bets on what will actually be heard tonight should be placed with care. Aficionados will note reasonable evidence of democracy at work, for instance, "Granada", sung last time by Domingo, switches to Carreras. "Nessun Dorma"?

Ah, that's different.

Meanwhile, the Philharmonia Orchestra, which plays for this tour's concerts in Europe and Japan, is unfazed by this state of programmatical flux. "No problem," says their managing director, David Whelton. "We've just rehearsed everything we could think of that we reckoned we could possibly be asked to do." Which needed a fair amount of rehearsal time, with funding to match? "Of course. The promoters really do seem to understand what it takes to make a special event special. The sound engineers know their stuff, too. Who we did Pavarotti in the Park, the orchestra on one side of the stage could actually hear what was happening on the other – they can't in the Festival Hall! Also, James Levine [who this time takes up the maestro's baton] has conducted us before, and our relationship with him is very good."

For Levine, the ultra-distinguished music director of the Metropolitan Opera in New York, party time with the Three Tenors represents an intriguing change of tack. But hang on a moment – whatever happened to Zubin Mehta? After a break of just two years, the Three Tenors comet has returned without him. "I'm sorry the reason is so boring," says Robert Rattray, Mehta's agent in London, "but it really is to do with incompatible schedules. Zubin works every summer at the Maggio Musicale Festival in Florence, where he's principal conductor. He's been doing *Lucia di Lammermoor* there, and *Aida*, and about 8,000 concerts. He doesn't like breaking existing commitments, and there was no way he could fit these in with a Three Tenors tour." So what about the obstinate rumour that Mehta hung in for a bigger fee for conducting the tour than he was ever likely to get? "I would say that that sounds... fanciful," says Rattray, placing the word with genial precision. "I know Zubin enjoyed the Los Angeles concert, and I'm sure he'd have done the Three Tenors again if he could."

If Mehta isn't raking it in this time, others certainly are. Tickets for tonight's concert start at £35 and graduate to £95 (plus VAT) if you fancy including the post-concert dinner which all three tenors are due to attend. Curiously, these top-price tickets, like the bottom-price ones at £35 to £100, have already sold out, while the mid-price range – a mere £250 to £350 – has been proving much harder to shift. We seem to have come a long way from August 1986, when prices for Pavarotti's virtually sold-out concert at Wembley Arena ranged from £15 to £50 – and even further from December that same year, when Domingo suddenly announced on Thames Television's *Des O'Connor Tonight Live* that he was cancelling his own Wembley Arena appearance (with tickets at £15.50 to £50.50, but with only about a third of them sold) at less than 24 hours' notice. Why? Because, he said, the promoters had priced the event out of reach of a wide audience.

The Three Tenors: Wembley Stadium 7.30pm tonight (broadcast on Classic FM 1pm tomorrow). Some tickets still available: 0181-900 1234

Ars longa, limo longer

It's Monday afternoon. Prior to its Wembley lift-off, the Three Tenors spaceship has just docked in London – though, spread through 45 rooms in the Hyde Park Hotel, it's more like a space-city. The female cadets in the control centre – a forest of laptops, printers and phones – exude breathless confidence. Tokyo, they say, was fantastic, with the weeping crowd singing along with the last number in Japanese. "I can't get my mind round this," one confides to another: "one moment I'm hung over in Tokyo, the next I'm at a soccer match in London with the Queen sitting next to me." A pugilistic little man strides through the room, disappears into an adjoining sanctum, and launches into an angry tirade: the word "lawyer" barks repeatedly out over the surrounding hum about José's suites and Plácido's guests, and who is picking up the tab for what.

When I'm ushered into the sanctum, the pugilist is wary. Matthias Hoffmann rose to fame as the promoter of the German equivalent of Woodstock, and now stands accused of undermining, betraying, and generally degrading the serious art-form he has espoused. He sees things differently: he believes he is democratising it, particularly through television spoofs.

"Everybody in England will have a chance to see the show – but just once. ITV can never repeat it, nor can they sell it. The concept behind the tour is: no records, no video, no worldwide TV. Always one show – live – for one country. And the people who pay to see the show are not the usual classical audience. They are people who – once in their lifetime – want to hear classic superstars, in a classic entertainment. Wembley will become an open-air opera house." He speaks in an eager, unstoppable rush.

For the time being he is quasi-manager to both Domingo and Carreras. How did he land these fish? "It started 10 years ago, when I recognised that the superstars of classic –

Mr Domingo, Mr Carreras – were being handled like nobodies. When Mr Domingo arrived in London, he was expected to organise his own car, book his own table. And the classic promoters thought this was quite normal. I thought: here is a

chance! We can look after these people...

"So I offered Mr Carreras a tour through Germany, for a very reasonable fee, and I gave him the normal things – limousines at the airport, red carpet backstage, catering, bodyguard – the normal, normal things! And he was astounded. He said, 'Why all this?' And I said, 'You like it?'

And he said, 'Yes, of course!'" So he has corrupted Mr Carreras? The pugilist laughs fleetingly. "What you must remember is that, at the same time, we had a fantastic sell-out success. And when Mr Domingo heard of this success, he gave me the chance to promote him too." More sell-outs, more gratitude. From there it was but a short step – well, a conference call – to Hoffmann's being welcomed in as promoter for concerts by all three.

Hoffmann declines to speculate on what he will earn from this year's 10 shows – though he must know, because virtually all the seats (60,000 of them in London, ranging from £35 to £350, plus 1,500 "VIP" places at £95, excluding VAT) have already been sold, while programmes (at £10 each) are a goldmine in themselves. And he won't be drawn on the singers' fees.

"Look," he says plaintively, "all this talk about money makes me a little bit sad. The success they have, on this scale, for a classical concert, has never happened before. Isn't that the most important thing? Nobody asks if the Rolling Stones earn too much, when they sell out Wembley. They do good money, we do good money. Mr Pavarotti said in Tokyo last week that he wanted commercial success. Because, in the opera houses, these singers work only for the art – for small audiences, and small fees."

But they earn £10,000 a night at Covent Garden! "So? These gentlemen have been performing for 30 years. I think they have earned the right to do 10 shows on a proper commercial basis. As long as the audience are crying out for them to do so – and paying the money – and being happy at the end."

This, he says, will be positively the last Three Tenors show in England. "They will do the World Cup final in France in 1998, but nothing else. And when they stop singing together, people will start talking about the Three Sopranos. The Three Young Tenors, or whatever, but it will not work. We will not in this century see anything so perfect again." On which Churchillian note, he picks up the phone.



The Three Tenors experience:
Domingo, Carreras and Pavarotti (left);
and Matthias Hoffmann (above),
promoter of their world tour

AS ORIGINAL AND INTRIGUING A MOVIE AS IT
EMERGED FROM AMERICA IN A LONG WHILE
GEOFF ANDREW - TIME OUT

DEAD MAN

NO ONE CAN SURVIVE
BECOMING A LEGEND

DEPP FARMER HENRIKSEN WINCOTT

STARS TOMORROW

CHESCA CINEMA

REEL TIME

RJZY

ARTS

books

All you need to know about the books you meant to read
by Gavin Griffiths

LE GRAND MEAULNES
by Alain-Fournier (1912)

Plot: A semi-autobiographical fantasy narrated by the limp François Sorel. Sorel enjoys a reclusive rural childhood until young Meaulnes turns up. Full of mischievous energy, Meaulnes seeks something beyond the usual run of experience and is prone to adventures. From one of these he returns preoccupied and taciturn, having stumbled across a country house during an engagement party and fallen in love with a young woman, Yvonne. Years later, Meaulnes bumps into the fiancé of the party Frantz, and pledges to help him track down Valentine, his betrothed, who ran away before marriage. Meaulnes marries Yvonne but deserts her soon afterwards to search again for Valentine, leaving Sorel to care for Yvonne. She dies in childbirth. Meaulnes returns but it is clear that he had found Valentine prior to his marriage and had slept with her, even driving her towards prostitution. Collecting his child, he wanders off, once more in pursuit of Valentine. Sorel finds himself alone again.

Theme: The pursuit of the unobtainable.

Style: Muted "magical realism" with characters afloat in a symbolist landscape that reflects their fathomless isolatio.

Chief strengths: The sentimentality is kept in check by Alain-Fournier's choice of a damaged narrator whose resentful spite underscores the novel.

Chief weakness: Most readers would like to give the characters a good shake and tell them to snap out of it.

What they thought of it then: Critics tended to find the implausibilities overwhelming and in 1913 the book failed to clinch the Goncourt.

What we think of it now: Alain-Fournier is regarded as a poor man's Proust, strong at heart, but soft in the head.

Responsible for: The Vaselined leos technique and shimmering light of the Sixties film directed by Jean-Gabriel Albinoco.

Who's reading whom

Jeffrey Archer finds masterly skills in the short stories of F. Scott Fitzgerald



It's 15-20 years since I read Scott Fitzgerald, but on the publicity tour in the US for *Fourth Estate*, I picked up two collections of short stories, *The Diamond as Big as the Ritz* and *Bernice Bobs Her Hair*. His technique is seamless. He has that almost indefinable ability to make you turn the next page and bind you into his stories. I have never read anyone who observes so well the subtleties of the ego: thus an actor who "lent" backwoods in order to see his visage in the chandelier". But I admire him most of all for the risks he takes. Writers create artificial dialogue. Fitzgerald - and I'm thinking of the love scene in "May Day" - shows extraordinary nerve and tenderness in reproducing it as it is in real life.

Close encounters in the wilderness

Richard Mabey marvels at the intrepid exploits of Victorian naturalists

Bright Paradise: Victorian Scientific Travellers by Peter Raby
Chatto, £20

To travel hopefully as a naturalist in the Victorian era was to arrive. Regardless of destinations, it was chance encounters in the wilderness that fuelled the collective fantasies of the age: fabulous new species; savages, Noble and grotesque; grueling obstacles against which the superior moral fibre of the European races could be tested. But as Peter Raby demonstrates in this fascinating and thoughtful survey, there was another, more purposeful project: nothing less than the cataloguing of the entire living world.

Throughout the 18th and 19th centuries scientific exploration was driven largely by economic and colonial ambitions. In the Victorian period, there was also a fundamentalist edge to the quest: could European man prove his title to the world's estates? The penetration of the rain forests in Australia and the New World had raised the thrilling possibility of glimpsing Eden, nature - and perhaps even man - in a primeval state. And that might lead, inexorably, to the unravelling of two more great conundrums: the age of the earth, and the origin of species.

Many of the travellers, like Sir William Hooker of Kew and the archetypal great white hunter Du Chaillu seemed to find the physical endurance required on these quests for biological grails invigorating. In Australasia in 1848, Thomas Huxley ate tea and chops under an opossum-skin bivouac. Charles Waterton slept eight after night with one foot trailing from his hammock in the hope that a vampire bat would come along and suck his blood. Many paid for their derring-do with bouts of malaria and dysentery. Mould attacked their specimens and insects ate their paints.

But the repeated shocks to their cultural preconceptions were even greater. When Charles Darwin first encountered naked Fuegians during the Beagle's voyage he was aghast. "I could not have believed how wide was the difference, between savage and civilised man. It is greater than between a wild and domesticated animal." The stock response was paternalism, symbolised at its bizarre extreme by the Philanthropic Expedition of 1841, a vast improving circus of public health engineers, missionaries and scientists who descended on the hapless inhabitants of the Niger.



Biting the bullet: a Victorian hunter comes to a sticky end, from Paul du Chaillu's 'Exploration and Adventure' in Equatorial Africa (1861)

More often the concern shown for indigenous peoples was little more than a self-interested gesture. The Niger rapidly became a trading route, what Raby tellingly calls "an imperial byway". European values roared down it in one direction, and African booty - plants, animals and minerals - stole out the other. The arrogance and scale of the collective busyness was prodigious. Du Chaillu flogged his captive gorillas if they "sinned"; whole forests were cut down simply to make their orchids easier to gather. Every place seemed to have its own idiosyncraticities, finches, tribal peoples, there for the picking. The irony was that this global plunder began cumulatively to build up a picture of the natural world as not just diverse but marvellously interdependent and adapted. The explanation was beginning to look

inescapable but heretical, and when William Hooker wrote to Darwin from the Himalayas in 1849, he displaced the question hanging in his soul every explorer's mind onto the teeming rhododendrons he was collecting: "(they) always are asking me the vexed question, where do we come from?"

The answer was not long arriving from the Malay Archipelago. Alfred Russel Wallace was ill and possibly delirious when a vision of "the survival of the fittest ... suddenly flashed upon me". He had seen the profusion and difference of natural life in the islands, and realised that "in the very process of this modification the unmodified would die out, and thus the definite characters and the clear isolation of each new species would be explained".

This was the explosive burden of the paper that landed on Darwin's doormat

this generous, idealistic man rather than the dystopian Darwin.

Wallace is, understandably, one of Peter Raby's favourites. But it is Mary Kingsley who is the most endearing character in his book. She had a deep affection for African people, landscapes and wildlife (she warded off leopards by lobbing crockery at them rather than shot), and her celebration of them - written in wonderfully funny prose that both imitated and mocked the heroic travel narrative - is one of the warmer legacies of Victorian exploration.

For the most part, we are still grappling with the dilemma discovered in the heart of darkness. Are wildness, naturalness, "primitiveness", qualities that need to be redeemed by civilisation, or something we need to rediscover in our own societies?

The good, the bad and the one with the shiny bald head

Edward Pearce is intrigued by the idiosyncratic details in the latest instalment of a British institution

The Dictionary of National Biography
1986-1990 ed C S Nicholls
Oxford University Press, £50

The Dictionary of National Biography
1986-1990 ed C S Nicholls
Oxford University Press, £50

names were actually "Cuthbert Collingwood" after his ancestor, the admiral. Similarly, family connections are all over the place. The composer, Peter Racine Fricker was a descendant of the Frenchman who made 2000 lines of Alexandre sound like 5000. But many have satisfactorily low origins: the father of the *Mirror* Editor, Sydney Jacobson, was an unsuccessful ostrich farmer. Harold Macmillan however was only the great-grandson of a crofter.

Concision imposes hilarity upon facts not in themselves hilarious: "(Her) upbringing in an all-Jewish family generated no interest in motororing beyond her training as a Woman's Auxiliary Air-force driver." (Sheila Van Dam) or "A chain-smoker, she was small, red-haired and unfriendly and claimed to have been one

of the first women to England to wear shorts" (Dora Russell).

This biographical shrine has out-houses and portakabins put together by many hands, some of which, like Kingsley Amis, have themselves since died. Here posthumous copy makes no difference, but old obituaries can be lethal.

Bill Deedes knows how to let the knife slip on purpose. "His aloofness" he wrote of Henry Cotton, "lost him popularity with contemporaries, and his strong will brought him into conflict with golf's rulers, but he rarely deviated from his chosen course." Moira Shearer is succinct about Robert Helpmann: "Many found him amusing but not witty, his humour was always sharply malicious at the expense of others."

There isn't enough of this in the DNB. You have to work hard to be as roundly abused as "STONEHOUSE John Thomson, politician and confidence trickster". Establishment understanding predominates. The atrocious George Kennedy Young - for whom Mussolini would have been a wet, and an

Eye at that - is let off with "his attraction and influence lay in his total independence of outlook".

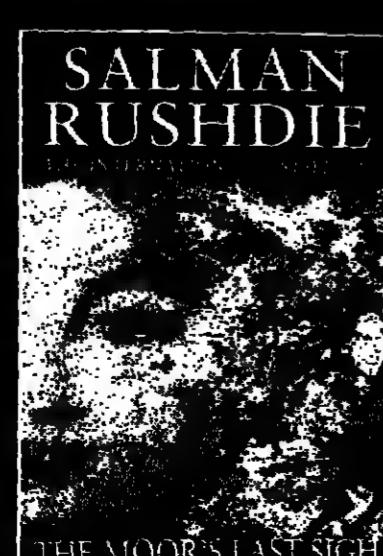
Many contributors share a trade with the dead. For actors, this can intimidate assassination, but for lawyers means that Mr Justice Flagelator-Smith was really a genial companion over the Mid-De Temple Madiera.

Trade unionists are not much less cushioned. There can have been few stiffer, more cowardly or more mediocre men than David Basnett for whom the phrase "not up to it" was a euphemism. Yet his intrusive style of leadership becomes "the view that trade union leaders had a right and a duty to participate with government in developing policies designed to improve economic performance and reduce social inequality". His campaign to save Labour from the leadership of Denis Healey is omitted.

The best entries are the loving ones. Witness Rachel Trickett on Lord David Cecil - "elegant and at the same time spontaneously gauche, cootiously in

motion from the twirling thumbs to the enthusiastic forward lurch", but also "what he possessed he wanted to share, and he had been given precisely the gifts to enable this". Occasionally, grand praise looks exactly right. The ancient historian, Arnoldo Momigliano - is apostrophised as "widely held to be the most learned man of his age".

But the great flaw of the DNB is that the dead obtain, through the attentions of their peers, a Court treatment of their own. Once in this establishment, everyone gets establishment status. But then why not? They are all dead and how poignant is their passing. "She died on 8 August of Alzheimer's disease in Woking Surrey; "he died at home in Ayr, of cancer on 10 June 1989"; "died 14 November 1990 after a long decline and was buried near his father"; "it is likely he died as the result of accidentally taking an overdose of painkillers" - thus are Audrey Russell, William Ross, Malcolm Muggeridge and Keeneth Williams assembled for the DNB by Death the Egalitarian.



'A triumph'

SUNDAY TIMES

'A wonderful book, gorgeous in colour...wildly funny'

INDEPENDENT ON SUNDAY

'A writer of breathtaking originality'

FINANCIAL TIMES

'Endlessly inventive, witty, digressive and diverting'

OBSERVER

'The Moor's Last Sigh has colossal imaginative reach'

IAN MCEWAN

WINNER OF THE WHITEREAD
NOVEL OF THE YEAR AWARD

July 1996

Getting the Abbey habit

Patricia Craig reads the diaries of an Irish grande dame

As soon as her terrible eye fell upon him I knew she would keep him... This moan of the symbolist Arthur Symons was uttered to the father of the poet John Butler Yeats, and he in turn repeated it in a letter to his daughter Lily, the "terrible eye" was of course Lady Gregory's, and in fact the occasion referred to – in 1896 – wasn't the first time it had alighted assessingly on W.B.Y. The two had first come face to face a year or so earlier, at the Hammersmith home of William Morris, and the impression then made by Yeats was noted by the diarist: "looking every inch a poet," she records admiringly. Their second meeting – the one bewailed by Symons – takes place, by chance, in Co Galway, and the next minute Lady Gregory is out ransacking the bogs and glens for fairy lore. She has found a lifelong enthusiasm. Soon Yeats is invited to Coole Park, ancestral home of Lady Gregory's husband (d. 1892), comes for two months and never outstays his welcome.

Augusta Gregory has gone down in literary history as the co-founder, along with Yeats and Edward Martyn, of the Irish Literary Theatre, later the Irish National Theatre Society and then simply "the Abbey", after its venue in Dublin. A member of the Protestant upper-middle class in Ireland, she married at 27 an old land-owning gentleman of 62, bore him a son, Robert, and after his death turned herself into a kind of Queen Victoria figure, in perpetual widow's weeds. George Moore has mentioned the way she wore her hair parted plainly in the middle, and smoothed over her ears; and the accompanying "Protestant high-school air" which somewhat got his goat. She divided her time between London and Coole, in the West of Ireland; and spent a lot of it resolutely going into society – her diaries before 1897 would be considerably reduced if you took away the names of the nobles who keep inviting her to dine. Nothing about Lady Gre-

Lady Gregory's Diaries
ed by James Pethica
Caliban, £35

gory's life, at first, is either purposeful or enthralling. Then Yeats comes on the scene, down to his last half-crown and incorrigibly entangled with Maud Gonne; and things take a more productive turn. The author of an anti-Home Rule pamphlet (1893) is about to find her niche at the centre of a campaign to restore dignity to Ireland.

In the effort to do her bit for Ireland as thoroughly as possible, along with Yeats and the others, Lady Gregory even undertook to learn the Irish language – though it's hard to judge exactly how much headway she made. For her retellings of tales from the Red Branch and Finian Cycles (*Cuchulain of Muirthemne*, 1903, and *Gods and Fighting Men*, 1904) she worked from translations, and imposed her own emollient Irish-English vernacular over the whole thing. "Kiltartanese" is the term, after a village not far from Coole; it's as fictitious as Synge, but without Synge's narcotic power. She wrote plays in it, too, a circumstance that led in the end to the entire Abbey programme being assessed by mockers in accordance with its "PQ" (peasant) quotient.

Lady Gregory is quite easily viewed as a figure of fun, as she goes about overestimating the rapport between herself and the Irish poor, failing to see spirits with AE at Coole – "Any one could see them, he says, who can detach their mind from the ordinary business of life" – and giving way to exasperation with friends' inferior wives – "Mrs Russell very unfriendly and dirty and hard in manner." For all that, she was never merely a hanger-on of the Revival but one of its architects. She lived in interesting



Queen of Coole Park. Lady Gregory was "at the centre of a campaign to restore dignity to Ireland"

times and found herself often at the forefront of some great literary event, like the "Playboy" furore of 1907 (when Synge's language affronted not only the first-night audience who couldn't stomach the word "slut," but also the Catholic sensibilities of Edward Martyn, who swore to George Moore that he'd never set foot in the Abbey again.)

If she is herself only a writer of the second rank, she wasn't parsimonious with her energy and industry, but placed them at the service of everyone she considered worth-

while. With certain aspects of the Revival – such as its folklore side – it's hard to tell where her role ends and Yeats's begins. These diaries peter out, unfortunately, just as the Literary Movement is getting into its stride, though a few additional scrappy entries take us up to 1909. They show Lady Gregory in an everyday guise not the egregious *grande dame* of Coole, but a conscientious friend and mother, subject like everyone else to boredom and anxiety, hest at times by domestic problems, rats and faulty plumbing.

Paperbacks



Reviewed by Emma Hagestadt and Christopher Hirst

In the Arena by Charlton Heston (HarperCollins, £7.99) Heston's roles have rarely been a barrel of laughs and the same goes for this chunky self portrait. Yet his anecdotes should please the buffs, from de Mille spending four days on a *Ten Commandments* orgy to Heston charging his horse at Peckinpah in Major Dundee. A rare irony occurs when he admits being only a "modestly competent" charioteer in Ben-Hur. "I guarantee you're gonna win the damn race," said his trainer.



Travels in Imperial China by George Bishop (Cassell, £10.99). A splendid account of Pere David's three great treks through China, Tibet and Mongolia between 1862 and 1874, when the Basque missionary and naturalist discovered both the deer which bears his name and the giant panda. Alternatively frozen and broiled, David was threatened by cannibals and once deliberately poisoned but, like many modern travellers, he was finally brought by a tummy bug.



Gridiron by Philip Kerr (Vintage UK, £5.99) Philip Kerr's blockbusters are obviously pitched with a view to Hollywood. But the endearing thing about his latest thriller – the story of a computerized building in downtown LA that starts to kill off its occupants – is just how deeply eccentric it secretly is. *Deaths in the high-tech building* include confrontations with killer loots and skirmishes with killer bugs that crawl up female back passages. "Towering Inferno" meets "Carry On Nursing".



The Two Deaths of Senora Puccini by Stephen Dobyns (Penguin, £5.99) Invited by their old school friend, Dr Pacheco, a group of middle-aged men gather in a candlelit house to feast on veal and oysters, and tales of sexual conquests. But more interesting than their own reminiscences is the compelling history of their host's housekeeper, the enigmatic Senora Puccini. A wonderfully readable novel that serves up titillation and well-seasoned storytelling in double helpings.



The Pope's Armada by Gordon Urquhart (Corgi, £6.99) From 1967 to 1976 the author was a member of the Focillare Movement, an extremist Catholic sect which enjoys the blessing of the Pope. The techniques of this group – "love bombing", talking in jargon – are compared to the Moonies. Urquhart ended up, penniless and chaste, in one of the sect's communes, making napkin rings. A cool appraisal of the new Catholic cults, said to have a world membership of 30m, the obsessively detailed nature of this work suggests it may be an exorcism.



Signed Confession by Ronnie Knight and Peter Pitts (Rocket, £4.99) The best-known member of the authorial duo is "serving seven years in HMP Blundeston" while the other half "divides his time between England and Spain". Their yarn concerns the efforts of an ex-SAS man to wreak revenge following the murder of his night-club partner and consists almost entirely of killings with dollops of graphic sex, providing relief. Occasional archaisms – such as the heroine's "perfectly straight-seamed stockings" – add charm.



That Bad Woman by Clare Boylan (Abacus, £5.99) The bad women in Clare Boylan's latest collection of stories, like the author herself, all share a quietly subversive streak. Whether it's the spinster whose illicit dreams of motherhood are ruined when confronted with a real live bundle of joy, or the housewife who decides it's time to re-ignite her dying embers, these women never quite end up in the relationships or beds you expect. Or they expect, come to that. Always surprising, energetic and fun, Boylan reads like the revitalized Fay Weldon.



To The Wedding by John Berger (Bloomsbury, £5.99) Packaged in a series of tender cinematic moments, John Berger's new novel follows the progress of a handsome middle-aged biker as he zips through Italian-French border towns (dressed in a leather jacket) on his way to his daughter's wedding – a daughter who, he's recently learned, is dying from AIDS. Easier to visualise as a film or a fashion shoot in *Vogue*, everyone and everything in the book is bathed in soft melancholic light. Nostalgic inter-railing at its most seductive.



SALMAN RUSHDIE

THE INTERNATIONAL BESTSELLER

THE MOOR'S LAST SIGH

OUT NOW IN VINTAGE PAPERBACK

The never ending story

Hugo Barnacle ponders a prolix American satire

Infinite Jest
by David Foster Wallace
Little, Brown £17.99

David Foster Wallace's ambitious, accomplished, deeply humorous but derivative and practically interminable second novel is set in an imaginary America of the near future where the pursuit of happiness through self-indulgent consumption has brought society even closer to total breakdown than it is at present.

One can't put an exact date on events because the Organisation of North American Nations, a bloc made up of Canada, the US and Mexico (official seal, "a sombre-faced eagle with a maple leaf in its beak") has abandoned the old Christian calendar in favour of Subsidised Time, a system where each year is named after a commercial product at the discretion of the highest corporate bidder, starting with the Year of the Whopper when Burger King won the first franchise a decade back.

The Statue of Liberty brandishes a giant replica of the chosen product. This year, Kimberly-Clark (makers of Kleenex and other disposables) have won the bidding, and the statue is sporting incontinence pants to mark the Year of the Depend Adult Undergarment.

The action occupies a couple of weeks in November YDAU, except for a few flashbacks and a puzzling prologue set a year later. Basically some fanatical Quebec separatists are trying to find the master copy of a film called *Infinite Jest* which is so absorbing that all who see it even for a moment are immediately and irreversibly turned into drooling morons incapable of any activity but perpetual repeated viewing of it. The few known teleputer cartridges on which the film exists are read-only, so the master is a must if the Quebecois are going to make sufficient copies.

Their fiendish plan is to abduct so many American brains that the US President will have to nuke Canada in retaliation, unless of course the Canadians dissociate themselves by declaring Quebec independent. The clever part is that the terrorists know the Americans are so weak-willed and pleasure-dependent that they will be unable to resist running the fatal film on their teleputer viewers even when they know what it will do to them. The Quebecois themselves have no interest in the film beyond its potential usefulness to the cause.

The

book's

final

page-

10

is

in

the

four-

figure

range

and

not

much

of

the

verbiage

is

strictly

germane

to

the

plot.

Key

points

are

liable

to

be

forgotten

in

the

vast

intervals

between

mentions

so

hardly

anything

ever

makes

even

as

much

sense

as

this

summary

indicates.

The

two

main

charac-

ters

Hal

Incandesc-

the

junior

tennis

star

and

Don

Gately

the

recovering

drug

addict

only

have

indirect

connections

to

the

goings-

on.

Wallace, meanwhile, offers a wistful remark about brilliant second-raters who can only imitate others. Pynchon went beyond his influences and developed his own voice. Wallace seems to acknowledge that he himself, despite great talent, has yet to achieve this.



CHILDREN'S BOOKS SPECIAL

in the juvenile world



Pullman service: Carnegie-shortlisted, TH White-meets-Tolkien author Philip Pullman, photographed in his writing shed in Oxford

ow." *His Dark Materials* (the title is a quote from *Paradise Lost*) is still unfolding. "It'll reach its moral in the third book. And it's very simple. Eve was right, The Fall is the best thing that happened to us. You have to eat of the tree of knowledge. In the second book we meet Adam, and in the third the temptation occurs - whether or not it's the fall we'll have to find out. I don't know what happens yet."

Rarely if ever have children been offered such a rich casket of wonders. *Northern Lights* stands up to comparison with both *The Once and Future King*,

TH White's tribute to Malory's *Morte d'Arthur*, and Tolkien's Norse-derived *Lord of the Rings*. It is, moreover, as well-suited to an intelligent eight-year-old as to an 18-year-old - or for that matter an 80-year-old. Indeed, in America, *Northern Lights* is being marketed as an adult book (its publishers have printed 100,000 copies) but if Pullman wins the Carnegie, a great many people will ignore the book because they will think of it as "just a children's book."

On the other hand, are today's children going to

be able to appreciate *Northern Lights*? My feeling is that, once they've opened the book and read the first page, they will. But 400 pages and a rather over-elegant cover could well put them off. In this context, winning the Carnegie, a sure signal of accessibility, would make all the difference. Without it, there is a danger that Pullman, like so many of our most talented children's authors, could find himself in that dangerous literary limbo of being thought too childish for adults and too adult for children. That would be a tragedy.

sake, stop quarrelling in the back

her selection of the summer's best talking (and singing) books on tape

version. If you get hooked on audioDahl, Harper-Collins have just issued five more tapes (four of them unabridged) read by Dahl himself, and twelve "theatre" versions of his enormously popular books.

A troupe of accomplished readers that includes Richard Briers, Alan Cummings and Juliet Stevenson do full justice to the romping rhythms of T S Eliot's Old Possum's Book of Practical Cats (Faber Penguin, £7.99). Written for Eliot's godchildren and friends in the 1930s, Rum Tum Tugger, Mr Mistoffelees and Old Deuteronomy, to say nothing of the dreaded Macavity and Skimbleshanks the Railway cat, are established favourites in the hearts and minds of three generations. Foot-tapping stuff, right down to the final curtain new.

Having totally failed to interest my children in reading the historical novels I used to love as a child,

I was interested to find them engrossed in a dramatisation of Rosemary Sutcliff's *Eagle of the Ninth* (BBC Radio Collection, 2 hrs, £7.99) which I was listening to in the car in order to review. The next thing that happened was a demand for the book itself, and they were soon as engrossed as I had once been in the fierce and romantic quest of Marcus Aquila for his father's Ninth legion, lost in the mists of Northern Britain. It proved that audiobooks can have the same stimulating effect as television adaptations on getting children to read. LM Montgomery's 90-year-old story of Anne of Green Gables (SHE Children's Classics, 80 mins, abridged but sold with the complete book, £7.99) works wonderfully well, narrated in a warm and eager Canadian accent by Stacey Gregg, with Ellie Fairman as the stout-hearted and hot-tempered little orphan heroine.

What price our language and literature when children no longer know whose face launched a 1000 ships, why Achilles had problems with his heel or who put what in the Wooden Horse? One way of keeping our cultural inheritance from Greece and Rome alive is to invest in Benedict Flynn's lucid retelling for children of *The Tale of Troy* (Naxos, 2hrs 30 mins, £6.49). Read with engaging directness by Benedict Soames.

Finally, one for all the family. Ted Hughes reads his own marvellous new fable *The Iron Woman* (Faber Penguin, £7.99) with his habitual relish and vigour. Hughes is quite brilliant at it, his deep voice powerful and gentle by turn, giving his words fresh fervour and redoubled power. I trust that the story's natural partner *The Iron Man* will appear on Faber's audiobook list before long - read by Hughes, of course.

Toothpaste recipes and bridesmaids' etiquette

Non-fiction: Want to build a wigwam? Want a close-up view of the placenta? Look no further, says E. Jane Dickson

Children's non-fiction titles are on a sticky wicket; tiny noses will flare at overtly improving texts, while an overtly matey approach will be laughed to scorn like an awkward uncle. *The Miracle of Birth* by Jenny Bryant (Joshua Morris, £8.99) bites the bullet with its straightforward account of human reproduction. The most excitable seven year old will find little to giggle about in a "close-up look at the placenta", while the featured "see-through view" of female anatomy turns out to be a series of overlapping acetates showing neatly labelled internal organs.

From *Birth to Death* (Belitha Press £8.99) is a literal return to the birds and the bees with a year in the life of a heavily populated pond. Only a shifty-looking angler disturbs the natural idyll. Irene Yates' text is clear and concise and Graham Austin's classical illustrations exquisitely drawn, but the overall effect is rather lifeless and old-fashioned.

Parents grappling for an explanation of how the telephone/video recorder/space shuttle works will be grateful for *The Usborne Illustrated Encyclopedia of Science and Technology* (£12.99) a high-density reference book with a busy, bouncy layout that encourages browsing. An engaging view of history is provided in *Kings and Queens of Britain* (Pavilion, £12.99) in which Rowan Barnes-Murphy's larkily illustrated and Frances Barnes-Murphy's equally lively text are crammed with incident and intrigue. The dates and key facts

of each monarch's reign are bulked out with the kind of quirky information that makes a genuinely effective *aidé-mémoire* and the knowledge that Elizabeth I swore like a trooper and William IV wiped his nose with the back of his fore-finger inform a healthy scepticism about the divine right of kings.

Dorling Kindersley's excellent *Eyewitness Guides* offer good solid groundings in social history with their museum-in-a-book format. Beautifully photographed "exhibits" are explained and expanded on with an unerring eye for the details that will interest children. *Medieval Life* (£8.99) covers a surprising amount of ground from a recipe for oyster-shell and cuttlefish tooth powder to a clear-eyed deconstruction of the courtly love convention. *Farm* (£8.99) goes beyond fluffy chicks and cornfodder to a well-judged discussion of intensive farming.

Political correctness makes its proper appearance in History's *Travellers and Explorers* (Belitha Press, £7.99). In his pleasantly argued text, Philip Ardagh reminds his post-colonial readers that "David Livingstone is credited as having discovered the Victoria Falls in 1855 on what is now the Zimbabwe-Zambia border... But it seems unlikely that the local people failed to notice the 120 metre high waterfall until a Scotman came along and pointed it out to them". Multi-culturalism is also celebrated in *I is for India* (Frances Lincoln £9.99), Prodeepa Das's beautifully photographed pictorial

alphabet which replaces the Kiplingesque view of the Sub-continent with vibrant images of contemporary Indian life.

Young aesthetes will find much to enthuse them in Macdonald Young Books' *Introductions* to van Gogh and Monet (£7.99 each). Suited to absolute beginners, the books comprise short biographies, a smattering of historico-social context and, most importantly, the beginnings of art criticism. For teenage readers, the sumptuously produced *Masters of Art series* (Macdonald Young Books, £12.99) offer more sophisticated but still readable analyses of the life, times and work of van Gogh and Michelangelo.

The Amazing Outdoor Activity Book (Dorling Kindersley, £8.99) may not lay down the cornerstone of a First in Greats, but for ages 6 and up, you get a tremendous amount of fun for your money. Whether building wigwams, observing insects or making maps, Angela Wilkes hits exactly the right note with exciting talk of "tribes", "survival kits" and "expeditions". Also for times My Day as a Bridesmaid (Bloomsbury, £8.99) doubles as a personal record book and etiquette guide for the big day. Charmingly illustrated by Joanna Walsh, Caroline Plaisted's up-beat, un-gushing text emphasises the practical over more romantic considerations. Her advice to small attendants to make sure that their dress isn't tucked into their knickers, will probably stand readers in good stead long after they have forgotten their book-larvin.

Cranking up the feel-bad factor

Teen fiction: Nicholas Tucker visits the lower depths

It is nearly always adults these days who complain about the frequent airing of depressing topics in children's books. Young readers themselves often seem to enjoy reading about bullying, drug abuse, homelessness, sticky divorces or whatever.

Whether this juvenile tough-mindedness will also extend to Gudrun Pausewang's *The Final Journey* (Viking, £10.99) remains to be seen. This veteran German author has made a career in writing genuinely horrific stories for children. Her last title *Fall-out* described a massive urban nuclear accident and the civil mayhem that followed. Her present novel is even more despairing. It tells the story of 11-year-old Alice's war-time journey in a cattle-truck on the way to the Auschwitz gas chambers.

Much of the story focuses on Alice's anxieties about the human excrement that gradually builds up in her carriage, finally swamping everyone whatever the different efforts individuals make to maintain their dignity. This is historically accurate as well as an effective metaphor for encroaching evil; it is also highly unpleasant to read.

Parents and teachers have to make up their own minds about the age children should be told in more detail about what finally happened to Anne Frank and other Jewish sons and daughters during those terrible times. In this story, Alice is furious when she discovers her grandparents had lied to her about the fate of her own parents, long since taken away.

But too much brutal truth too early can be wrong as well; pre-teenage readers could perhaps avoid such close descriptions of this continual nightmare until they have had some chance to build up sufficient mental and emotional strength to attempt to deal with it.

After that, Jacqueline Roy's *A Daughter Like Me* (Viking, £10.99) seems positively restrained although this too is a disturbing story. It features three girls aged between six and 13 whose mother has died and whose depressed father then disappears having lost his memory. There is a lot of weeping in this novel, mixed with a certain sermonising tendency as the girls make periodic stabs at pulling their increasingly shambling life-style together. It is a good but sombre story, sensitive to mood and personal weakness but sadly short of anything even moderately approaching an occasional sense of *joue de vivre*.

Anne Fine can always be trusted to make valid points about childhood without ever becoming over-solemn. *How to Write Really Badly* (Mammoth paperback, £2.99) is a delightful story about an unfashionably nice teacher and pupils with no obvious social problems in sight. It is true that Joe Gardner can hardly write, and examples of his dyslexic scrawl are reproduced on the page along with Philippa Duras' jolly illustrations. But fellow-pupil Chester Howard, fresh from hard-bitten schools in his native America, finds a way of helping him while also gradually pulling himself out of his own cynicism. This is a feel-good children's story from first to last; treasure its precarious survival in the grim children's book world of the 1990s while you still can.

girl in a man's world of sport - still no doubt true, but no longer a new idea. This book is still definitely recommended for all girl readers who want to play football themselves and are searching for a just about credible fictional role-model.

Ursula Dubosarsky's *Bruno and the Crumhorn* (Viking, £7.99) suggests a different order of interests. Except that 12 year-old Bruno loathes the crumhorn in question as well as his scheming great-aunt Irma who sets about teaching him to play it. Bruno's parents insist, and even though the dreaded instrument is lost on a bus it continues to exert its baleful spell until the end. But here things do change; Bruno falls in love with Sybil who has previously found his crumhorn and then taken over his lessons with great-aunt Irma before this unpleasant relative flies away to everyone's relief. A slight tale, but deserving of marks for its brand of mordant cheerfulness.

So too is Sue Robinson's *Well-Dressed* (Bodley Head, £9.99). This concerns 13 year-old Louise who has decided to become a complete misery. No reasons are given for this strange career move, and to this extent this

story does little more than unimaginatively echo routine parental incomprehension faced with the experience of adolescent depression. Louise is then shadowed by Wayne, who wants to rid himself of all merry attributes that have led to the nick-name Smiler. So far, so unconvincing, but readers still

00 board may find the relationship springing up between these two opposites moving as well as entertaining. Sue Robinson can be a good writer; perhaps she will think up a more convincing plot for her next book.

Ezid Richemont's *The Dream Dog* (Walker Books, £8.99) is a short but highly individual story where the ghost is animal rather than human. Moving into his new house, Josh keeps seeing the spirit of the dog who lived there before he did. The dog itself, now far away, sees Josh in turn but neither can find each other in real life. More adventures follow, and a final reunion eventually comes about. Somewhat fey at times, this is a pleasing little fable although still falling well short of any comparison with Philippa Pearce's classic animal-ghost story, *A Dog So Small*.

Anne Fine can always be trusted to make valid points about childhood without ever becoming over-solemn. *How to Write Really Badly* (Mammoth paperback, £2.99) is a delightful story about an unfashionably nice teacher and pupils with no obvious social problems in sight. It is true that Joe Gardner can hardly write, and examples of his dyslexic scrawl are reproduced on the page along with Philippa Duras' jolly illustrations. But fellow-pupil Chester Howard, fresh from hard-bitten schools in his native America, finds a way of helping him while also gradually pulling himself out of his own cynicism. This is a feel-good children's story from first to last; treasure its precarious survival in the grim children's book world of the 1990s while you still can.



Alan Garner

Strandloper

Sunday 7th July • 7.30pm in the Purcell Room

at the Royal Festival Hall in the South Bank, London SE1

travel day trips

CHANNEL ISLANDS: START HERE

As geo-political oddities go, the Channel Islands are some of the more absurd. This group of islands shelters beneath the protective wing of the Cotentin Peninsula, anchored firmly by geology and culture to Normandy. But it is as if they have been orphaned by the endless squabbling between nations, and have found themselves in the care of a distant aunt, London. Attempts to make Jersey and Guernsey, Alderney and Sark adhere to the image of England have only half-worked. The result is a beguiling muddle. French maps get it right when they refer to the Iles Anglo-Normandes: Dorset meets Deauville.

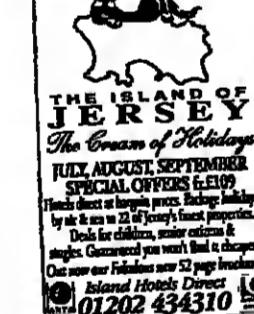
The islands have the advantage of not being on the way to anywhere else, so the late 20th century has yet to catch them in its beam of modernity. The impression is of a scale model of the real world: ancient tracks, edged with tiny cottages, cutting through junior-sized fields. The biggest problem is the motor car: rather than being a mix of bubble cars and Reliant Robins, vehicles are normal size. Congestion in the two large towns, St Helier in Jersey and St Peter Port in Guernsey, is dreadful. And the appeal of delicate lanes that thread through the hills is attenuated when hikers are forced off the road by a battalion of trucks. So sidestep to Sark, where Victorian values persist at least in terms of traffic.

To learn all the secrets concealed in the valleys, bays and villages (not to mention the elaborate fortifications) would take a lifetime. But with determination fuelled by good food and drink, the day-tripper can get a splendid snapshot.

travel • channel islands, uk

Channel Islands
HOTEL DE FRANCE
Egon Ronay Recommended
Superb Hotel offering Indoor pool with Whirlpool,
Sauna & Solarium, Gardens & Outdoor pool.
Indoor fitness centre with gymnasium
4 squash courts, 2 tennis courts, 2 studios etc
Includes full English breakfast
De France Group Travel Atel 1965
Tel: 01534 614161

Jersey • Channel Islands



THE ISLAND OF JERSEY
The Queen of Holidays
JULY, AUGUST, SEPTEMBER
£1000, £1100, £1200, £1300
Flight & Hotel price, including
by air or sea to 25 of Jersey's finest properties.
Deals available for families, couples
and groups. Jersey has a choice
of over 1000 self-catering properties.
For details, call Jersey Holidays Direct
01202 434210

DUKE OF NORMANDY HOTEL
Three Crown Establishment
Situated in the heart of
St. Peter Port

JULY & AUGUST
Rates from £27.00 per
ROOM & BREAKFAST
GROUPS CATERED FOR
Flight arrangements can be
made - including Supper
£3.00 pp
Brochure and further details
Tel: 01481 711431
Fax: 01481 711763

JERSEY
September Self
Catering,
Quality beach front
Cottages
Call Macole's
01534 880840

UK Travel

Welcome
COTTAGE HOLIDAYS

• IN WONDERFUL LOCATIONS
• AT WELCOMING LOW PRICES
• PETs, LINENS, FULL INCREDIBLE
• Cottages, Beach houses, Dwellings,
• Studio flats, Bungalows, Lodges,
• North Wales, Peak District, Lakes,
• West Country, South West, Scotland &
• Northern Ireland, South Wales

01756 702231

Heart of England

HEMPSTEAD / WORCS BORDER
TEMP. VALLEY. Recently ren-
ovated cottage, furnished
accommodation, open all year.
July/August 1996, 10 days available.
Brochure 01561 850460

Self Catering UK

THE LAKES AND
FELLS OF CUMBRIA

• Self catering holidays
• Locations in rural and coastal
• and scenic Fells & Lakeland areas

• Dates Holiday Cottages
• 01756 799821

WELSH BORDER Cottages on NT
estate. Unbeatable prices. Short
stays. 10 days available. Supt 8+, 10
17 days. Tel: 0763 422329

Holidays Afloat UK

BRITAIN'S BEST Self Drive Nar-
rowboat holiday. All inclusive. Tel
01903 720625.

BEAUTIFUL WATERWAY Berrys-

CRUISE & EXPLORE the west coast

of Britain's most scenic waterways.

Traditional Gales, "Lorries",

Professional crew, no

experience needed. All inclusive

boat hire, meals, equipment

and good company! Tel/Fax 01803

08430033223

Cotswolds

COTSWOLDS WELCOME COT-

SWOLDS. Welcome. Cot-

10010150

day trips travel

three tickets to the Channel Islands

Simon Calder and Harriet O'Brien mapped out Jersey and Guernsey in terms of a shopping list

Guernsey

The first impression: The day-tripper hops off the early morning Gatwick run hungry: Jersey European's BAe 146 seems a preposterously small aircraft to set out from an international airport, but you soon realise that it is something of a flying bus – so the most you can expect in the way of breakfast are a couple of unsustaining biscuits. The need for food might send you swiftly in the direction of St Peter Port, Guernsey's only urban centre, but before you board a bus there – simply labelled "Town" – cast your eyes over the line-up of propeller-driven flying machines beside the runway.

The great outdoors: There might be just the one town on Guernsey, but much of the rest of the island has a villagey feel. The tiny roads are lined with little houses in front of which home-grown produce is intermittently housed in small huts. Offerings of flowers and fruits can be bought by depositing the required reimbursement in an honesty box. Judging by the proliferation of such sales opportunities, honesty pays off. This, you sense, is a delightfully quiet and innocent place, a cosy island of milk, if not honey.

Walking along the green drenched lanes inland you pass the producers of such milk in pocket-sized fields. Guernsey cows were imported from Normandy in the 10th century, a breed which is able to produce rich milk by grazing on only a small area of grass.

As you head seawards from the island's pleasantly hilly farmlands and its abundance of tomato and flower-filled greenhouses, the coast bows with a rather more hardy culture. Guernsey's sandy beaches and rocky cays clatter gently with the sound of fishing boats and small yachts.

And indoors: It was merchant seafaring and specifically "privateering", a sort of legalised form of piracy (so much for Guernsey's current atmosphere of innocence), that went a long way in establishing the island's wealth in the 17th century. This you learn in the Candie Museum at St Peter Port.

There's a rich seam of visitor attractions on the island. Victor Hugo's house, where the poet lived between 1856 and 1870 – and where he wrote part of *Les Misérables* and all of *Les Travailleurs de la Mer* (set in Guernsey) – underlines the continuing thread with France. However, for an insight into what the island is, and the whys and wherefores of its tax-free development, the Candie Museum is your best bet.

Here the full gamut of Guernsey's history is displayed, from the earliest finds of weirdly shaped neolithic stone implements and pottery of 4700 BC, to 18th-century trinkets. You get a rundown on the wildlife, too, albeit in stuffed form: waders, ringer plovers, even a hoopoe displaying its crest.

Hitting the High Street: Side-stepping all the old familiarities such as Boots and Wall's, dip into the Guernsey Press bookshop in St Peter Port and you'll find that nature is a bestseller here. There were only a few copies left of the

glossy photographic hardback, *Guernsey Moods* (MLL, £29.95), when I called in.

The price, though, might not suit your own mood. The cost of books seems more than a little steep in comparison to other high street offerings. Strolling down from Smith Street, nr La Rue des Forges (the French street names still nestled in smaller print underneath the English ones), you gawp at window displays for shoes at £12, whisky at £10. VAT-free prices certainly add to the charms of this old-world harbour town. Yet as you wander down the cobbled main street, you are startled out of your cosy time warp by the sight of buttermilk-yellow phone boxes and letter boxes painted a deep blue. These are small but significant marks of independence: the people of Guernsey make a tidy profit out of running their own telephone exchange and postal service.

Buying the souvenir: At St Peter Port's main post office you are told with evident pride that "There's no strike here". A classic collection of the island's flower stamps is £3.06. And as you walk there you pass a profusion of perfumeries. The tax-free cost for 25ml of Dolce & Gabbana eau de toilette is £16.60.

Wet feet: A one-day Rover bus ticket costs £3, which seems very reasonable. The only trouble is the buses aren't always roving nearby when you want them. Stranded at the coast I was engulfed in a fine mist. Without any sensible footwear or rain gear (I was expecting sunshine in the not-quite-broadness of the Channel Islands), there was a certain inevitability about getting wet. I took a soggy walk.

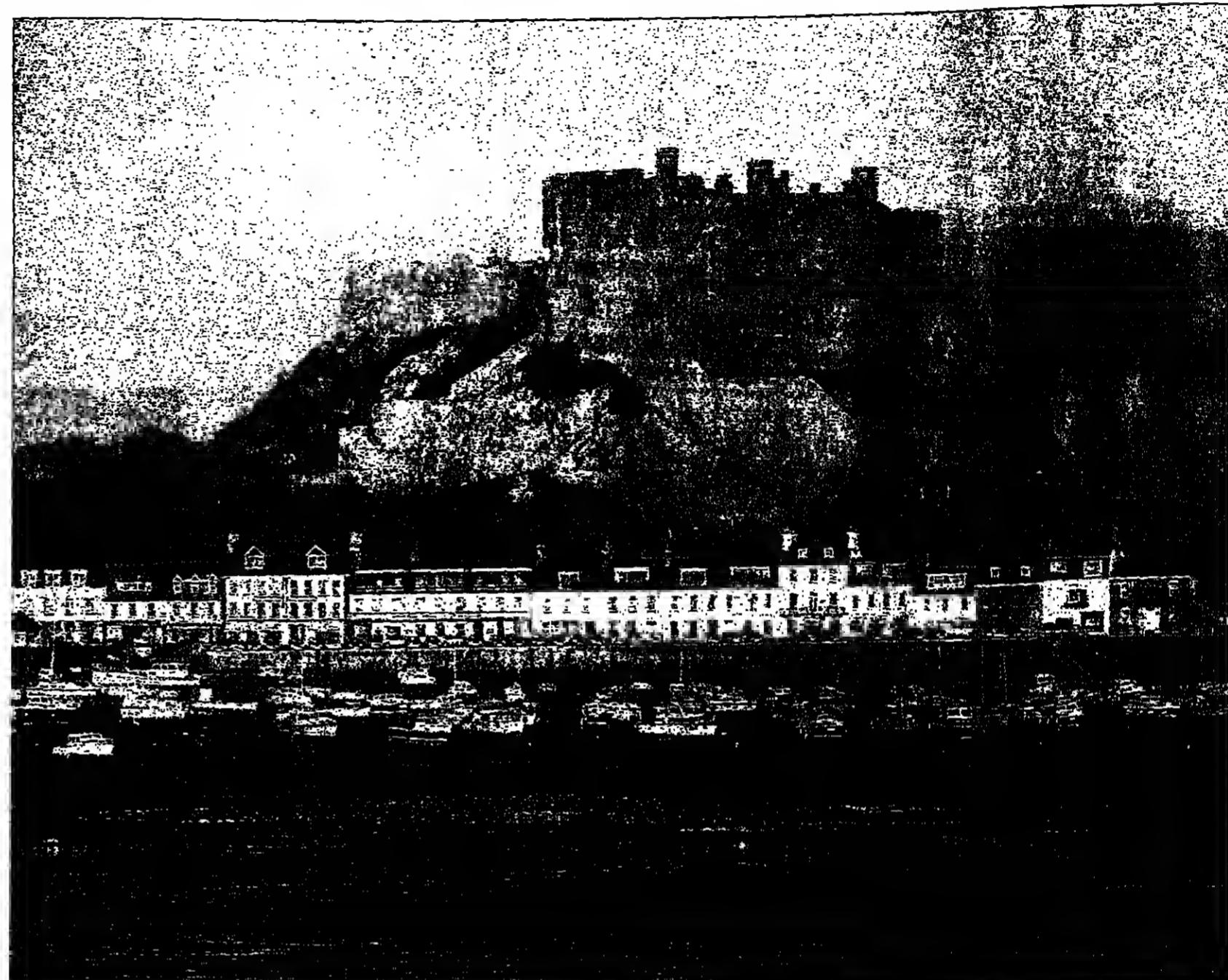
Liquid refreshment: Drying off in St Peter Port was a cheerful experience. The harman at the Thomas de la Rue suggested a reviving half of the local brew, Donkey Ale. It was rather more palatable than it sounded. "Strong, real stuff."

Finding the picnic: St Peter Port on a Thursday comes into full, old-fashioned swing with its costumed market: colourful, abundant, bustling. Or so I was told. I arrived on a Friday. Still, I found a very acceptable alternative to picnic shopping at a stall: on North Pier Steps, Mrs P's Kitchen offers home-baked pastries. A vegetable pasty, vegetarian "sausage" roll and mineral water came to £2.50.

The picnic spot: Not to be outdone by the weather, I took my picnic to the beach. I had the wide sands of Vazon Bay to myself, that is if you discount the seagulls and waders which seemed sublimely indifferent to my presence. Not a windbreak, deck chair or ice-cream van in sight.

The lasting memory: "Hello from Guernsey" said the brown cow in bubble speech on the postcard I sent home. The cows were certainly part of the Guernsey experience, but what really made my day were the bus drivers. A helpful crew, they double as unofficial tour guides. Even when you're wet and weary you are quite prepared to forgive them for their chauvinistic, roving buses.

Harriet O'Brien



Mont Orgueil and Gorey Castle in Jersey

Photograph: Alain de Garsmeur

Jersey

The first impression: At Jersey airport, you soon see the redundancy of the cliché that the Channel Islands are like England 30 years ago. The pure Art Deco lines of the airport terminal make it at least 60 years behind the times. Most of your fellow travellers seem retro, too – locked in a pre-package era when the Channel Islands were the only "overseas" that most people could reach from Britain.

The great outdoors: You do not need to be Bergerac to detect that airports tend to be built on flat ground. Given the terrain in Jersey, the developers had no choice but to plant the island's runway just west of centre. Elsewhere the horizontal is disrupted in delightful fashion by rifts and valleys. Not ideal railway territory, but the Victorians managed somehow to build one as far as La Corbière – the rocky, isolated Land's End of Jersey. The rails were ripped up years ago, so now the three-mile track to the jolly resort of St Aubin is a footpath.

And indoors: Slavery was abolished in Jersey in 1945. Wherever you go in the Channel Islands, you are reminded that this was the only part of British territory occupied by Germany during World War II. Given the geographical vulnerability of the islands, it was inevitable that the Nazis should invade in 1940. Wartime literature about the occupation gives an impression of what might have happened to Britain if Hitler

had invaded. The Nazis tried to ingratiate themselves by publishing English-German vocabulary tips for the local people daily. One early example includes translations for "order" and "occupy". Dances were organised for Nazi officers and local women and Jewish people were subjected to a battery of official persecution.

Enslavement was reserved for prisoners brought to Jersey from Spain, Poland and Russia. They were put to work shifting thousands of tons of rock to build defences for the island. The biggest project pierced a hillside in the centre of Jersey, involving an extraordinary complex of tunnels. Nowadays, it is a tourist attraction – the German Underground Hospital.

The blank, sanitised white walls of the entrance tunnel stretch menacingly into the rock. An entire barracks was constructed underground, and much of it – like the hospital ward and the telephone exchange – has been preserved. Hitting the High Street: Where German troops once paraded, now French day-trippers window-shop. The shops are interleaved with the off shore offices of familiar financial institutions, taking advantage of the liberal tax regime in the Channel Islands. But King Street, the main thoroughfare, is still a long way from Wall Street. As a character on last night's Radio 4 comedy show *Goodness Gracious Me* remarked, "My son's bank account in Jersey grew so large, it had to be sent to a bigger island."

Buying the souvenir: Shopkeepers and smokers are fuming about plans to increase tax on cigarettes. At present, though, the ideal present to take home is a pack of Marlboro at the retro price of £1.80 for 20. If the beneficiary prefers calories to nicotine, then try a 99-pence box of Jersey Cream Toffee. The nutritional value is summed up by the three leading ingredients: glucose syrup, sugar, and sweetened condensed milk.

Wet feet: The highest tides in Europe wash the shores of the Channel Islands. They also flood the footwear of day-trippers hiking across the causeway from the seafront at St Helier to the berried remains of Elizabeth Castle. A concrete path with the pompous name of le Chemin du Château leads across the sands to the castle at low tide. The trouble is, low tide becomes high tide with terrifying speed. I got one-third of the way across before a tidal wave of tourists coming in the opposite direction persuaded me to retreat, soggy.

Liquid refreshment: Until four years ago, the Star was a large but unremarkable pub on the main road through the hamlet of St Peter. Then the landlord decided to start making beer on the premises, and set up the Tipsy Toad Brewery to make real ale.

In the process, another tourist attraction was created: between noon and 3pm, Monday-Friday, you can look around the brewery. I settled on a pint of the robust Tipsy Toad, and expressed surprise at the low price – £1.15. "We think that's bloody expensive", grumbled a fellow drinker.

Finding the picnic: The town market in St Helier – a handsome, airy structure wrought from Victorian iron – is dominated by florists: fragrant to the nose, bright to the eye and calm to the ear. Token purveyors of food are permitted, such as Charles Dubois ("the People's Butcher"). Jersey strawberries are at peak production this week, so I settled on an overpacked punnet at a price that would put Wimbledon's fruit purveyors out of business: 99 pence.

The picnic spot: The most serene place on the island is the churchyard of Saint Sauveur de l'Epine. It rests peacefully, above the bumblend of St Helier, beside a modest lane with the extravagant title of La Rue du Sacrement. The graveyard represents the transformation "From the stress of the doing to the peace of the done" as one stone reads.

You can discern the gradual Anglicisation of the islands in a single family plot. In 1866, a stone was laid "en mémoire de Charles Jean Stark". When his grandfather died in 1919, the tribute was "In loving memory". A generation later, Stark became Stark.

The lasting memory: Politeness is the most significant trait of the island. Modestly rolling countryside is populated by pleasant people, and in the town no-one locks their bicycles because no one would be impolite enough to steal it. The 20th century is bound to trespass on Jersey – but probably not until well into the next Millennium.

Simon Calder

NEW VALUE PLUS SUMMER FARES

DIRECT TO BRITTANY AND NORMANDY

3-DAY RETURNS **5-DAY RETURNS** **7-DAY RETURNS** **21-DAY RETURNS**

FROM £45 FROM £69 FROM £91 FROM £138

Stay up to 3 days abroad. Car plus driver and up to 4 passengers. Stay up to 5 days abroad. Car plus driver and up to 4 passengers. Stay up to 7 days abroad. Car plus driver and up to 4 passengers. Stay up to 21 days abroad. Car plus driver and up to 4 passengers.

CRUISE-WINNING SERVICE **CONVENIENT SAILINGS** **DUTY-FREE BOTH WAYS** **GREAT VALUE RESTAURANTS**

PLYMOUTH **POOLE** **PORSCHE** **LOIRE VALLEY**

ROSCOFF **ST MALO** **CAEN** **FRANCE**

CHERBOURG **NORMANDY**

Brittany Ferries **The Holiday Fleet**

RESERVATIONS & INFORMATION 0990 900 800

travel day trips

Didn't we have a lovely time... .

Day trips around the world: Simon Calder suggests some diversions from hot city summers



Ancient history in Tarragona

Photograph: Tone Stone

Barcelona — Sitges

At first sight, the Catalan capital has everything going for it: abundant culture, splashed layer by layer upon a city squeezed spectacularly between the mountains and the sea. So why leave, even for a day?

Several good reasons: to visit the most vivacious gay community on the Spanish mainland at Sitges, a resort that will be especially lively today on Gay Pride Day; to marvel at Montserrat, the mountaintop basilica that is probably the most remote place of pilgrimage in Europe; and, most pressingly, to delve into ancient history in the city of Tarragona.

A one-hour train ride deposits you at an unprepossessing station, but from here it is all uphill. In Roman times, Barcelona was a mere outstation to the important city of Tarraco. The modern successor, Tarragona, draped itself over a healthy collection of Roman remains.

The remnants of the Forum pop up close to the main shopping street. As you ascend to the hilltop settlement, the 20th century thins rapidly. Strangely contorted lanes, populated mostly by scruffy dogs and scraggy children, lead you breathlessly to a plaza whose generous proportions sprawl lazily in the calm of a Catalan noon.

Hong Kong — Macau

The new airport at Macau has provided an even faster means of exchanging one colony for another. Nobody actually says "Macau is like Hong Kong was 30 years ago", but you would not

be surprised if they did. The Portuguese outpost, 60 miles east across the South China Sea, has kept a Lusitanian lid upon the enterprise culture.

Of the half-dozen ways to reach Macau, the oldest and slowest is the best. The grumbly old steamer puffs laboriously across, overtaken by all manner of oceangoing craft but easing you into a different world. The decaying elegance of the Lisboon of the East transcends some horrid new skyscrapers.

Unlike Hong Kong, some superb — and empty — beaches are a quick bus ride away. The only intrusion is the new airport, jutting out into the bay like a giant splinter in the toe of China. Still, at least it means you can be back in Kowloon in 20 minutes if affairs demand it.

New York — Hudson River Valley

The only annoyance about the best escape from Manhattan is that it begins in the depressing subterranean surroundings of Penn Station, rather than amid the finery of Grand Central. But as soon as the express emerges from the tunnel, the conductor begins a recitation of the tangled history of the Hudson River Valley. Getting there is at least half the fun, as the train clings doggedly to the east bank of the river through each rugged twist in geology and history.

The Hudson was a significant frontier in the skirmishes between early settlers and indigenous Americans, but has mutated into prime real estate for the well-to-do. The Rockefellers are well represented, as are the Roosevelts — presidential relics

are strewn along the valley.

Emerging from the train at Poughkeepsie, you find yourself deposited in upscale New York. Opulent mansions conceal themselves behind neat rows of pines, their occupants emerging to browse at America's highest concentration of souvenir stores. For storekeepers bere, it seems to be Christmas every day — especially for the proprietor of the Christmas shop, selling Yule-tide fu in the height of summer.

Paris — Futuroscope

Thanks to the high-speed train the notion of a day trip from Paris is stretched to absurd lengths. Travelling from Gare Montparnasse at 186mph, you reach Poitiers in 90 minutes. Ignore the medieval core of this city in favour of the shuttle bus to the European Park of the Moving Image.

From a distance, Futuroscope resembles a factory estate devastated by a particularly nasty hurricane. Upon some modestly rolling man-made hills in south-west France, three-dimensional crazy paving has been created — a random scattering of misshapen cubes, globes and massive crystalline structures, laced with boating lakes and flowerbeds.

Among these space-age constructions and washing-powder-bright colours there is a huge choice of cinemas, from 3D to 360 degree, and with everything from moving seats to screens under your feet. Your eyes — and body — come away as blitzed as the landscape. Even the fountains jump about.

Further on, we approached a busy downtown town. The coach slowed and parked next to an ugly bridge. There was a food market nearby, and a bonfire at the side of the road. A group of men were hanging around a trailer marked "barber".

"OK, my very good friends," said Oupa, beaming all over, "this is where we make our first stop".

Then we were the ones being gawped at. As the local population scrutinised the European tourists being unloaded from their air-conditioned coach, Oupa pointed out various local sites: "Over there is the famous Baragwanath Hospital. No, it's not an African name, it's Welsh. Over there is the nurses' home."

We looked, nodded dutifully, and clambered back on board. As the coach drove on we peered out at the everyday life of the Sowetans: schoolchildren

walking to the bus stop, some of the girls in impeccable black dresses, men sitting under a tree drinking. Oupa pointed out other men walking around carrying bits of scrap metal they had collected, and "over there," he said, "is a cash point machine."

He told us that nobody in Soweto would mind being photographed. Theo

we found ourselves driving alongside a woman carrying a basket on her head.

"Oh, look, a woman with a basket on her head," he said. "Stop the coach." The woman, suddenly cast into the shade by our bus, looked terrified.

The coach seemed to lurch over as everyone moved over to one side to look and take a picture. She hid behind a tree.

A mile or two down the road, the driver was asked to stop again. Oupa

had seen some women crouched on the ground, selling herbal cures. We all piled off to take pictures. The women wondered where to look.

Children playing with some tyres nearby must have thought the circus had come to town, which wasn't too far off the mark. Oupa spoke with the women and told us about the powers coextensive within the roots and spines.

Our coach driver, an Afrikaner, sooted and shook his head.

Finally, the highlight of the day, a meal at Wandi's Shebeen, one of

Soweto's many drinking houses. The sign at the front door read "No Guns".

We entered a small house. Two rooms had been knocked through to make a bar and restaurant. As we sat down at a long table a waiter offered us lamb or chicken with maize, and a glass of ice-cold beer. Half a dozen local men sat at the other end of the table, discussing politics loudly. They barely glanced in our direction.

The food was excellent and we all bought red roses from the waiter for the nation's Comic Relief day. Clearly we were not the first Westerners to have visited this place; indeed many visitors had been invited to sign their names on a wall ("Michael Winner — Death Wish" said one).

Leaving the township, our final stop was at a memorial erected by the ANC's Youth League to "all the young heroes and heroines of our struggle who laid down their lives for freedom, peace and democracy". This was the Soweto that had been

transmitted to us on jerky TV news bulletins. And, of course, this was why we had chosen a day-trip to an enormous housing estate.

Johannesburg to Soweto: a bizarre excursion

By Andrew Hasson



Photo: Andrew Hasson

1

HOVER SPEED

FAST FERRIES

The promotional holidays featured above are offered by HoverSpeed Limited and our booking conditions will apply. All bookings are accepted subject to acceptance of HoverSpeed's Conditions of Carriage, a copy of which can be obtained on request. You are advised that HoverSpeed is a member of the Passenger Shipping Association (PSA) and as such is a member of the PSCA Consumer Protection Scheme under which its inclusive Holiday programmes are bonded.

HOVER SPEED

FAST FERRIES

The promotional holidays featured above are offered by HoverSpeed Limited and our booking conditions will apply. All bookings are accepted subject to acceptance of HoverSpeed's Conditions of Carriage, a copy of which can be obtained on request. You are advised that HoverSpeed is a member of the Passenger Shipping Association (PSA) and as such is a member of the PSCA Consumer Protection Scheme under which its inclusive Holiday programmes are bonded.

HOVER SPEED

FAST FERRIES

The promotional holidays featured above are offered by HoverSpeed Limited and our booking conditions will apply. All bookings are accepted subject to acceptance of HoverSpeed's Conditions of Carriage, a copy of which can be obtained on request. You are advised that HoverSpeed is a member of the Passenger Shipping Association (PSA) and as such is a member of the PSCA Consumer Protection Scheme under which its inclusive Holiday programmes are bonded.

HOVER SPEED

FAST FERRIES

The promotional holidays featured above are offered by HoverSpeed Limited and our booking conditions will apply. All bookings are accepted subject to acceptance of HoverSpeed's Conditions of Carriage, a copy of which can be obtained on request. You are advised that HoverSpeed is a member of the Passenger Shipping Association (PSA) and as such is a member of the PSCA Consumer Protection Scheme under which its inclusive Holiday programmes are bonded.

HOVER SPEED

FAST FERRIES

The promotional holidays featured above are offered by HoverSpeed Limited and our booking conditions will apply. All bookings are accepted subject to acceptance of HoverSpeed's Conditions of Carriage, a copy of which can be obtained on request. You are advised that HoverSpeed is a member of the Passenger Shipping Association (PSA) and as such is a member of the PSCA Consumer Protection Scheme under which its inclusive Holiday programmes are bonded.

HOVER SPEED

FAST FERRIES

The promotional holidays featured above are offered by HoverSpeed Limited and our booking conditions will apply. All bookings are accepted subject to acceptance of HoverSpeed's Conditions of Carriage, a copy of which can be obtained on request. You are advised that HoverSpeed is a member of the Passenger Shipping Association (PSA) and as such is a member of the PSCA Consumer Protection Scheme under which its inclusive Holiday programmes are bonded.

HOVER SPEED

FAST FERRIES

The promotional holidays featured above are offered by HoverSpeed Limited and our booking conditions will apply. All bookings are accepted subject to acceptance of HoverSpeed's Conditions of Carriage, a copy of which can be obtained on request. You are advised that HoverSpeed is a member of the Passenger Shipping Association (PSA) and as such is a member of the PSCA Consumer Protection Scheme under which its inclusive Holiday programmes are bonded.

HOVER SPEED

FAST FERRIES

The promotional holidays featured above are offered by HoverSpeed Limited and our booking conditions will apply. All bookings are accepted subject to acceptance of HoverSpeed's Conditions of Carriage, a copy of which can be obtained on request. You are advised that HoverSpeed is a member of the Passenger Shipping Association (PSA) and as such is a member of the PSCA Consumer Protection Scheme under which its inclusive Holiday programmes are bonded.

HOVER SPEED

FAST FERRIES

The promotional holidays featured above are offered by HoverSpeed Limited and our booking conditions will apply. All bookings are accepted subject to acceptance of HoverSpeed's Conditions of Carriage, a copy of which can be obtained on request. You are advised that HoverSpeed is a member of the Passenger Shipping Association (PSA) and as such is a member of the PSCA Consumer Protection Scheme under which its inclusive Holiday programmes are bonded.

HOVER SPEED

FAST FERRIES

The promotional holidays featured above are offered by HoverSpeed Limited and our booking conditions will apply. All bookings are accepted subject to acceptance of HoverSpeed's Conditions of Carriage, a copy of which can be obtained on request. You are advised that HoverSpeed is a member of the Passenger Shipping Association (PSA) and as such is a member of the PSCA Consumer Protection Scheme under which its inclusive Holiday programmes are bonded.

HOVER SPEED

FAST FERRIES

The promotional holidays featured above are offered by HoverSpeed Limited and our booking conditions will apply. All bookings are accepted subject to acceptance of HoverSpeed's Conditions of Carriage, a copy of which can be obtained on request. You are advised that HoverSpeed is a member of the Passenger Shipping Association (PSA) and as such is a member of the PSCA Consumer Protection Scheme under which its inclusive Holiday programmes are bonded.

HOVER SPEED

FAST FERRIES

The promotional holidays featured above are offered by HoverSpeed Limited and our booking conditions will apply. All bookings are accepted subject to acceptance of HoverSpeed's Conditions of Carriage, a copy of which can be obtained on request. You are advised that HoverSpeed is a member of the Passenger Shipping Association (PSA) and as such is a member of the PSCA Consumer Protection Scheme under which its inclusive Holiday programmes are bonded.

HOVER SPEED

FAST FERRIES

The promotional holidays featured above are offered by HoverSpeed Limited and our booking conditions will apply. All bookings are accepted subject to acceptance of HoverSpeed's Conditions of Carriage, a copy of which can be obtained on request. You are advised that HoverSpeed is a member of the Passenger Shipping Association (PSA) and as such is a member of the PSCA Consumer Protection Scheme under which its inclusive Holiday programmes are bonded.

HOVER SPEED

FAST FERRIES

The promotional holidays featured above are offered by HoverSpeed Limited and our booking conditions will apply. All bookings are accepted subject to acceptance of HoverSpeed's Conditions of Carriage, a copy of which can be obtained on request. You are advised that HoverSpeed is a member of the Passenger Shipping Association (PSA) and as such is a member of the PSCA Consumer Protection Scheme under which its inclusive Holiday programmes are bonded.

HOVER SPEED

FAST FERRIES

The promotional holidays featured above are offered by HoverSpeed Limited and our booking conditions will apply. All bookings are accepted subject to acceptance of HoverSpeed's Conditions of Carriage, a copy of which can be obtained on request. You are advised that HoverSpeed is a member of the Passenger Shipping Association (PSA) and as such is a member of the PSCA Consumer Protection Scheme under which its inclusive Holiday programmes are bonded.

HOVER SPEED

FAST FERRIES

The promotional holidays featured above are offered by HoverSpeed Limited and our booking conditions will apply. All bookings are accepted subject to acceptance of HoverSpeed's Conditions of Carriage, a copy of which can be obtained on request. You are advised that HoverSpeed is a member of the Passenger Shipping Association (PSA) and as such is a member of the PSCA Consumer Protection Scheme under which its inclusive Holiday programmes are bonded.

HOVER SPEED

FAST FERRIES

The promotional holidays featured above are offered by HoverSpeed Limited and our booking conditions will apply. All bookings are accepted subject to acceptance of HoverSpeed's Conditions of Carriage, a copy of which can be obtained on request. You are advised that HoverSpeed is a member of the Passenger Shipping Association (PSA) and as such is a member of the PSCA Consumer Protection Scheme under which its inclusive Holiday programmes are bonded.

HOVER SPEED

FAST FERRIES

The promotional holidays featured above are offered by HoverSpeed Limited and our booking conditions will apply. All bookings are accepted subject to acceptance of HoverSpeed's Conditions of Carriage, a copy of which can be obtained on request. You are advised that HoverSpeed is a member of the Passenger Shipping Association (PSA) and as such is a member of the PSCA Consumer Protection Scheme under which its inclusive Holiday programmes are bonded.

HOVER SPEED

FAST FERRIES

The promotional holidays featured above are offered by HoverSpeed Limited and our booking conditions will apply. All bookings are accepted subject to acceptance of HoverSpeed's Conditions of Carriage, a copy of which can be obtained on request. You are advised that HoverSpeed is a member of the Passenger Shipping Association (PSA) and as such is a member of the PSCA Consumer Protection Scheme under which its inclusive Holiday programmes are bonded.

HOVER SPEED

FAST FERRIES

The promotional holidays featured above are offered by HoverSpeed Limited and our booking conditions will apply. All bookings are accepted subject to acceptance of HoverSpeed's Conditions of Carriage, a copy of which can be obtained on request. You are advised that HoverSpeed is a member of the Passenger Shipping Association (PSA) and as such is a member of the PSCA Consumer Protection Scheme under which its inclusive Holiday programmes are bonded.

HOVER SPEED

FAST FERRIES

The promotional holidays featured above are offered by HoverSpeed Limited and our booking conditions will apply. All bookings are accepted subject to acceptance of HoverSpeed's Conditions of Carriage, a copy of which can be obtained on request. You are advised that HoverSpeed is a member of the Passenger Shipping Association (PSA) and as such is a member of the PSCA Consumer Protection Scheme under which its inclusive Holiday programmes are bonded.

HOVER SPEED

FAST FERRIES

The promotional holidays featured above are offered by HoverSpeed Limited and our booking conditions will apply. All bookings are accepted subject to acceptance of HoverSpeed's Conditions of Carriage, a copy of which can be obtained on request. You are advised that HoverSpeed is a member of the Passenger Shipping Association (PSA) and as such is a member of the PSCA Consumer Protection Scheme under which its inclusive Holiday programmes are bonded.

HOVER SPEED

Tel: 0171 293 2222

travel • overseas

Fax: 0171 293 2505

Take Off

Take Off

Take Off

Take Off

Because we think the world of you...

Current best buys on the world's finest airlines

(excl. taxes)	one way return	one way return	one way return	one way return
SYDNEY	£362	£485	NEW YORK	£115
PERTH	£314	£357	BOSTON	£129
AUCKLAND	£352	£315	FLORIDA	£159
BANGKOK	£198	£296	LOS ANGELES	£195
HONG KONG	£277	£241	SAN FRANCISCO	£158
SINGAPORE	£242	£422	TORONTO	£138
BALI	£349	£578	VANCOUVER	£290
SAIGON	£336	£588	CARIBBEAN	£178
TOKYO	£229	£599	MEXICO CITY	£263
DELHI	£219	£341	KATHMANDU	£265
			AROUND THE WORLD	£473

plus discounted quality accommodation per room per night from

AUSTRALIA £38 • USA £31 • AFRICA £37 • PACIFIC £42 • ASIA £28
USA CAR HIRE FROM £13 PER DAY • CALL NOW FOR OUR NEW WORLD DIRECTORY ON 0171-938 3366

TRAILFINDERS

THE TRAVEL EXPERTS

SYDNEY, AUSTRALIA

£659 return

Valid for travel from UK 1 July to 30 November '96.

Limited availability - must book by 31 July '96.

HOTELS • CAR HIRE • TRAVEL INSURANCE • TOURS • CRUISES • WORLDWIDE ITINERARIES

worldwide attention to detail

42-50 Earls Court Road • LONDON W8 6FT

Long Haul Flights: 0171-938 3366

Transatlantic & European: 0171-937 5480

194 Kensington High Street • LONDON W8 7RG

Long Haul Flights: 0171-938 3369

Transatlantic & European: 0171-938 3222

First & Business Class: 0171-938 3444

22-24 The Priory Queensway • BIRMINGHAM B4 6BS

Worldwide Flights: 0121-236 1234

48 Corn Street • BRISTOL BS1 1HO

Worldwide Flights: 0117-929 9000

254-284 Sauchiehall Street • GLASGOW G2 3EH

Worldwide Flights: 0141-353 2224

58 Deansgate • MANCHESTER M3 2FF

Worldwide Flights: 0161-333 6959

First & Business Class: 0161-333 3434

FOR YOUR FREE COPY OF THE
TRAILFINDER MAGAZINE
CALL 0171-938 3366 ANYTIME

ATOL 1458 IATA ABTA 60701

... people think the world of us!

All our shops are open Mon-Sat 9am-6pm • Thurs 9-7pm • Sun 10-5pm

ANNUAL TRAVEL INSURANCE FROM £46.

With insurance starting from just £46, contact the name you can trust for the best deals on Annual Multi Trip cover. Other policies available - Call for details. For travellers under 65 years only.

General Accident Direct

0800 121 007

Mon-Fri 9am-5pm
Sat and Sun 9am-5pm

Sundial Travel Ltd.
ATA 6020
Bargain late flights fr.
Algarve £199 Athens £109
Barcelona £129 Dublin £119
Faro £109 Geneva £109
Lisbon £109 Madrid £109
Malaga £199 Palma £179
Rome £189 Salzburg £169
Verona £199 Venice £169

Other flights most holidays
Real Agents in 100 countries
Holiday Car hire all destinations
Just one call books it all
01276-686808

TRAVEL DESIGNS

HOLIDAYS
TURKEY JULY £1169
GREECE JULY £1749
MAJORCA JULY £1699
TUNISIA JULY £1749
WORLD LEISURE FLIGHTS & HOTELS
2-5* HOTELS & OTHERS £119
HOTEL & FLIGHT £119
0171 432 3221
All major credit cards accepted - T&Cs apply

TRAVEL INSURANCE
Annual from £45
40% off high street
prices
All types of policies for all
types of travellers
FREE
Quote and
Advice
01243 783838

**Don't pay
too much for
your travel
insurance!**
Call 0171-375 0011
COLUMBUS DIRECT
Travel Insurance Ltd.
With over 17 years experience, Columbus Direct is the
UK's leading provider of travel insurance.
AMERICAN INDEPENDENCE 100%
CANADA DAY DISCOUNTS

Overseas Travel
Coast along to your
new local beach.
Marseille from £109
Nice from £109

**IF YOU'RE GOING TO
BREAK DOWN
IN EUROPE,
BREAK DOWN WITH THE BIGGEST.**
Motoring on the continent? You're better off with us. The biggest assistance organisation in Europe, we say 'assistance' because unlike our competitors, we cover not just your car, but you, your family and your holiday - and at prices lower than many ordinary breakdown policies. Did we say biggest? Many say best. For details, even if it's 3am, call us now.

europ assistance
01444 442424

Lines are open 24 hours. Please quote reference BC12.

Punt down your
new local canals!
Amsterdam from £77.

Take Off

asia plus +

Flight only Return price from

AUSTRALIA £520 NEW ZEALAND £450

PHILIPPINES £420

SINGAPORE £449

HONG KONG £699

SEUL £449

BANGKOK £420

SINGAPORE £449

THAILAND £420

TOKYO £420

GLOBAL TRAVEL GROUP LTD

0990 143 311

0161 622 0069

GLOBAL TRAVEL GROUP LTD

0171 200 8705

0170 0708

0171 200 8705

0170 0708

0171 200 8705

0170 0708

0171 200 8705

0170 0708

0171 200 8705

0170 0708

0171 200 8705

0170 0708

0171 200 8705

0170 0708

0171 200 8705

0170 0708

0171 200 8705

0170 0708

0171 200 8705

0170 0708

0171 200 8705

0170 0708

0171 200 8705

0170 0708

0171 200 8705

0170 0708

0171 200 8705

0170 0708

0171 200 8705

0170 0708

0171 200 8705

0170 0708

0171 200 8705

0170 0708

0171 200 8705

0170 0708

0171 200 8705

0170 0708

0171 200 8705

0170 0708

0171 200 8705

0170 0708

0171 200 8705

0170 0708

0171 200 8705

0170 0708

0171 200 8705

0170 0708

0171 200 8705

0170 0708

0171 200 8705

0170 0708

0171 200 8705

0170 0708

0171 200 8705

0170 0708

0171 200 8705

0170 0708

0171 200 8705

0170 0708

0171 200 8705

0170 0708

0171 200 8705

0170 0708

0171 200 8705

0170 0708

0171 200 8705

0170 0708

0171 200 8705

0170 0708

0171 200 8705

0170 0708

0171 200 8705

0170 0708

0171 200 8705

0170 0708

0171 200 8705

0170 0708

Top 100 1996

travel



Been away so long I hardly knew the place

In the week when an ailing Boris Yeltsin was re-elected to the Kremlin, and when questions hang over the fate of Russia itself, Steve Crawshaw remembers the seemingly unshakeable Soviet certainties of 1976

The Hungarian white wine cost 2 roubles 30 kopecks in every Leningrad food shop, or *gastronom* – that much I remember. The cost of the vodka – which was equally important – I've now forgotten, but it was ludicrously cheap. But the Hungarian white, in the slim green bottle, was memorable for its mystery. Hungary, a country so far away that it almost seemed to be in the West. None of my Russian friends had received permission to visit such a land of notorious subversives. All the more reason, why a taste of the almost-West for only 2 roubles 30, was a regular purchase for the endless improvised celebrations of summer 1976.

Different occasions had different drinks. At the Russian baths, the *banya*, where you were required to beat each other with fragrant birch twigs, beer was obligatory – along with the *vobly*, a kind of dried, salty fish that we crunched on as we sat on the long wooden benches, draped in white sheets.

There were Soviet shortages, of course. But what you could get – through connections, or serendipity – became more important than what you couldn't. I learned to carry around the famous *avoska*, the "maybe-hag", stuffed into a pocket, just in case I came across Cuban oranges, or Bulgarian peppers – or some other unusual luxury – to take as a guest offering.

Leningrad was bitter-cold through the winter, and hot and dusty through the summer. But the city of Pushkin and Dostoevsky seemed special, in all seasons. Because of some bureaucratic mix-up, I had a visa that was valid for both Moscow and Leningrad, which meant (oh privilege!) that I could visit the capital at any time. But Moscow meant dull, Brezhnevite power, and metropolitan complacency. Leningrad – the city that still dreamed of its former existence as St Petersburg – seemed to me more seductive.

Superficially, Leningrad was just as Communist as Moscow. Draped across Middle Avenue on Vasilevsky Island, where I used to catch the train into town, red-and-white banners reminded everybody that the Communist Party was the brains, honour and conscience of the nation. But nobody took much notice. Leningrad remained Leningrad – or, as Leningraders called it in an affectionate reference to its previous identity, "Peter".



Queuing for watermelons from the South in 1976

Theoretically, I was attached to Leningrad University for the year, in the depths of what later came officially to be called "the era of stagnation". I was supervised by a gentle old Dostoevsky professor, who helped me to compose empty, politically acceptable blurbs about my alleged research, which would keep the university authorities off my back while I was off learning Russian the easy way, in the *banya* and in drunken, philosophical conversations in the kitchens of my friends' cramped apartments.

Time counted for little, so we would take off whenever we wanted. I rarely had a valid visa and always half-feared the "Dokumenty, paizhauastai Papers, please!" call. But the authorities never seemed to catch up with us on our excursions, one of which was catching the night train down to Estonia, a visit that opened my eyes for ever.

In the winding streets of the old Estonian capital, Tallinn, the cellar bars were – unbelievably – playing music that was fresh in the

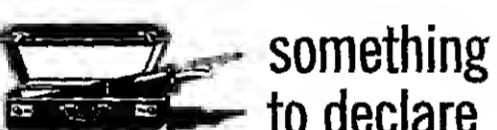
Danube. The authorities, however, wanted to get rid of me, especially since my Soviet visa was about to run out. They therefore stamped my passport with an instant permit for a confused chase out of the country. I was allowed to catch a plane to Moldavia, in the south-west corner of the Soviet Union, from where I was to take a train, to catch my boat.

Moldavia was famous for its wine and for the fact that Brezhnev had been the party boss there. But it was a different image that remained with me from my brief stay in the capital, Kishinev. When the Aeroflot plane landed, the passengers started trudging across to the terminal. Suddenly, an *Intourist* lady stepped from a yellow bus and demanded: "Where is the foreigner?" I was duly driven in solitary splendour to the terminal.

This useless version of apartheid did not surprise anyone. It was just another fact of Soviet life. Everybody knew, too, that life here would never change. Except that it did change. When I returned to Moldavia a decade later, red, yellow and blue materials were prohibited from sale in the shops – because they were popular with nationalist demonstrators (red, blue and yellow are the colours of Romania, of which Moldavia had, until 1940, formed a part). Now, the Moldavian breakaway is long since complete, and so is the violet of chaos. Today, the country is a crumbling mess. (The man who tried to keep things together on the Russians' behalf after the collapse of the Union in 1991 was a Soviet general, by the name of Alexander Lebed. His new role, since the latest presidential elections in Moscow: all-purpose tough guy, the most powerful man in Russia after the sick Mr Yeltsin himself. In Russia, tolerance has a short lifespan.)

After a night on a crowded bench at the airport in Kishinev (these days, Chisinau), I found a train that would take me through Romania to catch my Danube boat, in Bulgaria, the following night. Crossing the final border out of the Soviet Union, there was only one hitch. As I left the USSR, the border guard wanted to confiscate my map of Leningrad, apparently on the grounds that all maps are secret. I pointed out that the map was not exactly classified material; its print run was one million. Reluctantly, and to my surprise, the guard returned it. I was out of the madhouse.

Photograph: Steve Crawshaw



Trouble spots This week's advice from our woman in the Foreign Office

Corfu Watch out for bullets: "There have been occasional exchanges of gunfire between Greek police and Albanians attempting to steal boats."

Nigeria Air safety worries: "It is possible that some airlines operating within Nigeria may not carry out maintenance to international standards. Seek advice locally."

Brazil: Going underground: "In Rio

de Janeiro, taxis and the metro are much safer than buses or trams."

Nepal: Don't go freelance: "Do not trek on your own without a professional guide."

Foreign Office travel advice is available on 0171-238 4503/4504; on BBC-2 Ceefax page 564 onwards; and on the Internet at <http://www.fofo.gov.uk/>

True or false?

If BA pilots strike, I can use my ticket on another airline

Probably false. A ticket should be interpreted as little more than a vague promise to get you from Alpha to Bravo, possibly via Charlie, at some time in the future. If that seems too vague a plan, then holders of full-fare, unrestricted tickets can use them on another airline – or get their money back and perhaps buy a cheaper ticket, as EasyJet reminds passengers at Glasgow airport. But most of us travel on cut-price, heavily restricted tickets which assert "Valid BA only – no endorsements".

The latter does not refer to the pilot's absence of driving convictions, but to the practice among airlines of "endorsing" a ticket over to another carrier, enabling passengers to travel on a flight with some prospect of departing earlier. But holders of the cheap World Offer fares sold by British Airways have no such flexibility. So, should the pilots' industrial action take place, then low-budget travellers can expect long waits. Fortunately, BA says that further talks are planned with the pilots' union in a bid to avoid strikes.

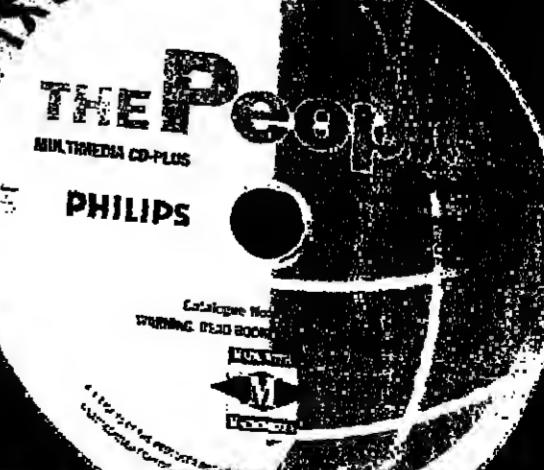
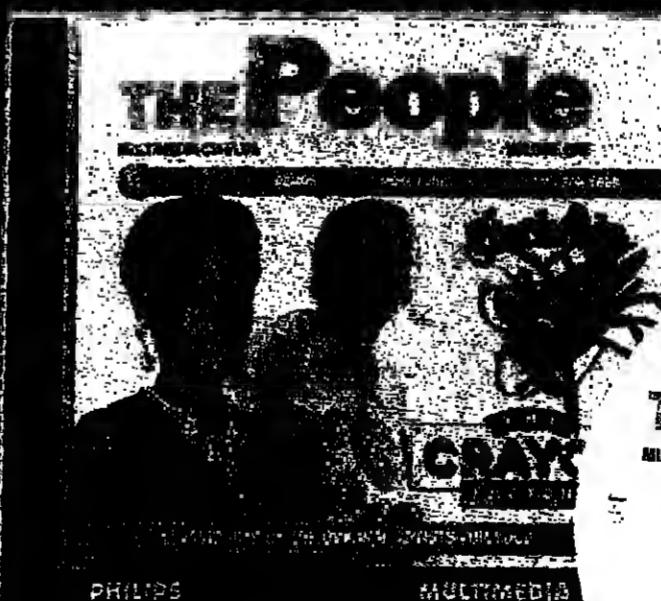
Compiled by Rhiannon Batten

Bargain of the week

In July, air fares to Australia usually increase substantially. But the Virgin Atlantic/Malaysia Airlines joint operation is offering return flights for only £660 to Sydney, Melbourne and Adelaide until 30 September. The fare includes tax (though Sydney adds an extra £2 for "noise tax"), and is available from the Australia Flight Centre (0800 747000) up to 31 July.

THIS WEEK IN THE People GREAT CD OFFER!

For only
£1.99



15 PARTY HITS FOR YOUR CD, 3 GREAT GAMES FOR YOUR PC, PLUS MUCH, MUCH MORE...!

ALL ON ONE CD-ROM

A Special Announcement THE TIMELESS NILE



Cruise between Aswan and Luxor on board the MS Serenade, one of the finest vessels on the Nile

7 nights from £530.00

and join the Serenade for a 7-night cruise. Visit the West Bank, the Valley of the Kings and the Temple of Karnak, sail to Edfu and Kom Ombo visiting their temples, and on to Aswan with full sightseeing programme (optional excursion to Abu Simbel)

September 2, 9, 16, 23, 30 £550
Oct 7, 14, 21 £585 - Oct 28 £635
November 4, 11, 18, 25 £645
Dec 2, 9 £600 - Dec 16 £645
December 23, 30 £795

1987 - January 6, 13, 20, 27 £655
February 3, 10, 17, 24 £655
March 3, 10, 17 £655

March 24 £750 - Mar 31 £655

Apr 7, 14, 21, 28 £655

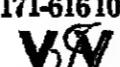
Supplements - per person

Single cabin £225 - Upper decks £195

Abu Simbel (by road) £29

Includes all travel, transfers, 7 nights on the MS Serenade, all meals, entertainment, repatriation, port taxes, port charges, air taxes, visa fees. All prices subject to change. All bookings are accepted subject to our Conditions of Booking, available on request.

0171-6161000



21 Dorset Square

London NW1 5DG

Telex 810411 VGI UK

Internet <http://www.vgi.co.uk>

Or call 0171-6161000

or fax 0171-6161001

or write to 21 Dorset Square, London NW1 5DG

ITINERARY IN BRIEF
Fly from London Gatwick to Luxor

country

Women answer the call to arms

Caroline Donald joins a ladies shooting course

There can't be many field sport events that owe their success to high-maintenance hairdos. Yet spotting an advertisement in *Harpers & Queen* while at the hairdresser is how many of the well-groomed participants had come across the Green Feathers Ladies Shooting Course. It is run by Holland & Holland at its grounds in Northwood, Middlesex.

This is only the second year that the company has run such a course, designed to encourage women to take their place at the stand alongside men. It would seem that encouragement is all that is needed: last year there were 35 participants, this year there were 85 – all the places that Holland & Holland could handle.

There were times during my three lessons, held in freezing weather, when I would have been quite happy to withdraw from this shot in the sky for femin-

ism and freedom into the cosier environment of the shooting lodge. However, I grimly persevered along with my fellow shooters who were there to escape a lifetime of being expected to cook the shoot lunch. And I sorely tested the patience of our instructor, Chris Whaley. Yet even when I managed to get in such a muddle that I would have shot myself in the foot if there had been another cartridge, he didn't flinch.

Safety was endlessly emphasised. In his end-of-course rallying cry, Eric Bettleheim, from the Country Sports Business Group, even advised that, when dealing with shoot saboteurs, one should put one's gun away in its sleeve and lock it into the car – though at prices starting from £18,000 for a new Holland & Holland Sporting 12-bore, this might be more for the gun's safety than the sab's.

With safety aspects covered, we went on to shoot at clays delivered from varying traps: going away (pigeon),

straight up in the air (teal), low and crossing (partridge), high and fast (driven pheasant). Most people used a 20-bore gun with over-and-under barrels, which meant that they only had one trigger to pull for discharging both barrels. The wimps, such as myself, shot with a 28-bore side-by-side gun (one of the lightest), so we had to change triggers to discharge the second cartridge. With the smaller gun come cartridges with less lead shot and, consequently, more excuses for missing.

Yet on our final day we were assured that our scores as a whole were just as good as hov's scores. According to Mr Whaley, it would not be possible to organise a course for such large amounts of men, as they are "too competitive". Indeed, the atmosphere outside the marquee on the final day was more like a jolly boarding-school reunion than a competition day. And we listened to a lecture from school-



High maintenance hairdos:

of a four-wheel drive vehicle, it is actually very flattering to most figures."

"You've been a bundle," beamed the tressk-wearing shoot manager – Oliver Shepard – approvingly to us all. He handed first prize to Francesca Dean, whose own unbundled to joy protruded in front of her. We all received a silver-and-enamel Green Feathers badge which, in years to come, Francesca may show to her child as a memento of a past when women guns were unusual enough to merit their own special course. Or, perhaps, it will become a spooky reminder of the days when field sports were legal in this country – as strange to future generations as bear-baiting is to ours.

For further information about shooting lessons contact Holland & Holland, Ducks Hill Road, Northwood, Middlesex HA6 2SS (01923 825349)

Have a heart.



Picture by Alan Mowbray

The bag for the day was 2,000 birds



DUFF HART-DAVIS

The memoirs of old gamekeepers are often fascinating for the information they contain about country ways, but rarely do they include such revealing social history as that given in Norman Mursell's *Come Dawn, Come Dusk*.

First published in 1981, with attractive illustrations by Rodger McPhail, and now reissued, the book tells how the author served as gamekeeper to four successive Dukes of Westminster. His loyalty to his employers is unswerving: all four, he says, were considerate and generous to their staff – and none more so than the second Duke, always known as Bend Or.

There is no hint in these pages that Bend Or was a notorious playboy, four times married and, in the words of the diarist Chips Channon, "an empty failure". The worst Mr Mursell will say is that the Duke was "at most times an impatient man". Yet every now and then the enormity of his behaviour peeps through the curtain of respect.

Once when fishing in Norway he decided he wanted a round of golf. Leaving his guests ashore, he ordered the captain of his yacht to sail for Birkenhead, 1,000 miles away. Thence he proceeded to his home, Eaton Hall, near Chester, but never went into the house. Instead, he had his clubs brought out, played nine holes by himself, went back on board and returned to Norway, never saying a word about where he had been.

When Mr Mursell arrived at Eaton Hall as a youth in 1929, shooting-parties were conducted on a gargantuan scale. The head keeper turned out in green velvet jacket and waistcoat, white breeches and a hat with "plenty of gold braid about it".

The beaters wore white smocks gathered at the waist with leather belts, and red, wide-brimmed hats. Because the Duke could never bear to wait, a whole army of 80 men was needed, so that they could beat in two companies, and one drive could succeed another without delay.

Young Mursell never forgot how, at 9.45 on the morning of his first big day, chauffeur-driven Rolls-Royces and Daimlers disgorged the Duke and his guests. After three drives, the guns returned to Eaton Hall, where they were "no doubt served a sumptuous lunch by the staff on duty", while the beaters withdrew to stables for humbler fare.

Then, after lunch, "a rumble was heard from the direction of the drive", and the shooting party returned in the private, narrow-gauge train. The bag for the day was about 2,000 birds.

Come spring, the Eaton

gratify the Duke's predilection for plovers' eggs, and they walked back and forth across the fields searching for nests. The author allows that this "could be a tedious job", especially when the Grand National horse party was in residence, and 100 or more eggs had to be found for the 20-odd guests.

In the autumn, for grouse shooting, the Duke rented moors in North Wales, and an army of retainers moved into the hills for the duration. No private railway here. For the first drive, the party had to walk up a steep incline to the huts, and the author seems surprised that the Duke stopped at the first, sending everyone else on. At lunchtime the guns repaired to a hut high among the moors, and there at the door to greet them were two footmen from Eaton Hall, in morning suits.

At home, it amused Bend Or to chase rabbits in the gardens with his dachshunds. The flowerbeds were protected by wire-netting and water-filled ditches, but every now and then rabbits were specially brought in and released for the dogs to chase. Some, of course, were never accounted for, and, to

appease the gardeners, the keepers would come in to shoot the survivors. This, as Mr Mursell remarks, was a delicate task, which had to be done at a time when "any shooting would not disturb the Duke, so the valet was consulted before starting".

When the Second World War broke out, Bend Or, though "a fearless man", felt sure that Eaton Hall would be bombed. He therefore had a large wooden hut moved "into the densest part of Fox Covert and fitted out as a comfortable bedroom", with tapestries lining the walls. Each evening he and his valet would draw out there "and spend no doubt a restful night".

The Hall was never bombed, and the Duke lived on until 1953. Mr Mursell retired in 1979, but is still going strong in his eighties. His story, authentic in every detail, gives a vivid glimpse of another era. Former-day keepers would never tolerate many of the goings-on that he records – but then, as he remarks, the world has changed.

"Come Dawn, Come Dusk" by Norman Mursell is published by White Lion/Colt Books, £16.95

Take a picture.

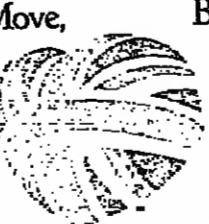
What does the Heart of Britain mean to you? Take a photograph this week and it could live forever as one of 300 chosen by our celebrity judges to appear in the 'Heart of Britain' book.

There are nine categories, which might give you some ideas: Young Britain, Caring Britain, Animal Britain, Good Time Britain, Beautiful Britain, Britain on the Move, Sporting Britain, Working Britain and Tomorrow's Britain. The picture judged best in each category wins an Olympus Mju-1 compact camera. Send us your three best photographs, together with a £2

donation and entry form, available from BP garages, Dillons, Dixons, John Menzies, WH Smith, Waterstone's, Mirror Group Newspapers or by telephoning 0891 252605.*

The Heart of Britain book will be a remarkable record of the nation in the final years of the 20th Century. And your photograph and name could be there for all to see. But the pleasure you might get will be far outweighed by the pleasure you will give.

Because you will be giving someone the chance of a better life; or simply a better chance of living. So have a heart. Take a picture.



July 1st-7th

In support of Royal Brompton Hospital, the leading edge in heart research and treatment.
Supported by: AMV Group • Bookman Projects • Dixons • Halifax Building Society • Hillsdown Holdings • Love This Records • Marks & Spencer

*Calls will last less than one minute and are charged at 35p per minute cheap rate and 45p per minute at all other times. All profits are donated to The Heart of Britain Appeal. Lines close 18th July 1996.

1996

1996.1.5.20

property

Loft conversions and other storeys

Turning your attic into a new room might sound a good idea, but beware the building regulations. By Penny Jackson



Maria Wallace (left) with her sister, Catherine

Photo: Edward Sykes

There must be somebody's law of housing that says however much room you have it is never quite enough. But apart from looking longingly at larger homes we cannot afford, most of us are constantly appraising our own homes to see how more space can be carved out of what is already there.

Lofts – those dusty places filled with the collected rubbish of years, rather than the trendy post-industrial apartments – are often the last sections of older houses to be refashioned, generally with a specific purpose in mind. A children's room, a self-contained flat, a study or just more bedrooms are all good reasons for hurrying into the attic. But it would be a mistake to assume that a loft conversion automatically adds value to a house. It may make a house easier to sell, but evidence shows that you are not likely to recoup the building costs. The exception being if you live in a very small house – "then it is advantageous to expand" says Ian Dickson of Winkworth.

He sees a good number of conversions and has dire warnings for anyone who fails to notify their local authority of their building plans. "I would say 50 per cent of loft conversions are done without complying with building regulations. It is a

nightmare, because a surveyor will pick this up and say after sale will fall through. Cutting through roof rafters has its risks and fire regulations must be complied with. Anyone getting a cowboy job done is wasting their money."

Three years ago, when Maria Wallace bought her run-down, two-bedroom terrace house in Shepherd's Bush, London, she went to great efforts to find a local builder with a good reputation. "It made all the difference. He knew the ropes, applied for permission and everything ran smoothly."

The difference a new storey has made to the traditional two-up, two-down, is striking. Instead of a cupboard-like bathroom, squashed alongside two bedrooms, the whole of the first floor is given up to a spacious bathroom and bedroom with a walk-in hanging space for clothes. A staircase now leads up to a third floor where Maria's sister has a virtually self-contained flat.

"I never imagined I would get this large room and a bathroom," she said. "I had plans drawn up by an architect but my builder made a lot of changes. I would stand up here perched on a ladder as he waved his arms about trying to show me where the walls would go."

Ms Wallace, a househunter in the City, had all the work done before she moved in. The price

of the extension was about £6,000. Her house is now on the market for £129,000; she expects to see more than a return on her investment.

The combination of architect and builder is an obvious choice of anyone embarking on a loft extension, but it is not always the most economical. Many companies who specialise in loft conversions offer a complete and competitive package. Michael Wilson found himself leafing through the Yellow Pages after discovering that he would have to spend £10,000 on the fees of an architect and structural engineer alone. He selected three companies, two of whom quoted about £18,000 and one £24,000, for converting the loft of his four-bedroom house in London to give more room to his daughters. These were fixed prices including drawings, calculations and permission. After inspecting work the companies had done elsewhere, he settled on one of the £18,000 offers.

"The only change we insisted on was to the windows. We wanted traditional casement windows in wood. They agreed, even though they had never done one before."

Five months later, he was still waiting for them. "All the building work had been done within three months as promised, but the saga of the windows

went on. The first lot never turned up, the second joiner produced rubbish, and when the third came along, we went to the bottom of his list."

But despite this, Mr Wilson said the company honoured its contract as far as price was concerned. Nor, as many people fear, did they make much mess. Mr Wilson's random search even brought its lighter moments: "One company said it couldn't do the work, but insisted that I go and see them. They had an offer I couldn't refuse. When I got there they took me out to a building which was kitted out for a boy's night, with a bar and billiard table. Forget the loft, they said. We'll do you one of these for 30 grand instead."

For anyone considering a loft conversion, the first step is to find out if planning permission is necessary. In many cases it is not. However, quite separately, everyone must lodge an application under building regulations with their local authority. This should be accompanied by detailed plans and structural design calculations. Work can begin before formal approval is granted, but it is advisable to wait as the authorities may insist on certain changes. Inspectors will always make several site visits. Local specialist companies offer the best practical advice and will handle the applications.

Househunter

Cerne Valley, Dorset



Tout fishermen will acquire about 200 yards of double bank fishing with this period farmhouse in Dorset. The River Cerne, a chalk stream, cuts through the land in the peaceful Cerne Valley. Forston Farm, Forston, near Dorchester, has five bedrooms with a galleried landing. There are outbuildings on both sides of a courtyard, which include three looseboxes, a tack room and a granary. As well as the gardens of herbaceous borders and lawns, the land runs to about 20 acres in all. The asking price is in excess of £425,000, through Michael de Pelet (01935 812236).

For what it's worth

The more quickly new homes sell, the more cut-throat the competition between developers. The dwindling supply of building land in the south, particularly inside the M25 and in Surrey, means that a prime site in this area is of immense value.

David Marsh, land and new homes director for the southern region of Blackhorse Agencies, says the competition is "outrageous". A substantial site near Kingston and close to the river has just had an unprecedented 30 bidders. "At the moment, the top three offers are in excess of a million pounds per acre. It could go higher," he says.

So will this mean a dramatic increase in the cost of new homes? Mr Marsh thinks not. "We look at today's prices; we never inflate the price for a developer. But the expectations of buyers are high and so they will surely have to reduce profit margins."

The number of frustrated buyers around at present has given agents food for thought. Knight Frank has joined the swelling ranks of search agencies and set up a Property Buying Service, headed by Jonathan Harrington who has worked in the country house market for 20 years. Like other buying agencies, for an up-front finding fee – deductible from a final fee based on a percentage of the cost of a property – he will look for the right property either privately or on the open market.

el: 0171 293 2222

property • residential

Fax: 0171 293 2505

Eastbourne

EASTBOURNE SEAFRONT SOVEREIGN HOUSE



Impressive period property restored to Form 21 mostly 2 Bedroom superb apartments.

Ground Floor and above have superb sea views, many with balconies and en suite facilities.

£95,000 to £169,500

plus

2 Penthouses £215,000

In addition, 3 flats on lower level £45,000 to £85,000.
SHOW FLAT OPEN 11 a.m. to 4 p.m.
01323 410 911 or Show flat 01323 735075

FOX SONS

Royal Insurance

London Property

London Property

To make buying easy Westbury give you a choice:

SELECT ANY ONE OF THE FOLLOWING

5% Deposit Paid**

100% Part Exchange*

Your Mortgage Paid until 1997

Free Fitted Carpets*

£3,000 Cashback*

AVAILABLE ON SELECTED PLOTS ONLY

FREEPHONE 0800 26777 or WORCESTER HEAD OFFICE 01562 705000

Subject to The Company's terms. For details and conditions please telephone or visit the development.

Prospectus up to £50,000

CLERKENWELL HOUSE, ECI

A selection of 1 and 2 bedroom warehouse apartments.

Prices from £100,000 - £250,000

S.T.C. For further information contact:

Jarvis
Keller
0171-251 9226

Country Property

DEEP PARK, Cricklade, near
Kendal. Super developments of
2 & 3 bed cottages with views over
rolling countryside. Prices from
£55,000 and for brochure 01531
658 925.

HORNWICK, near Burham Market,
Norfolk. Cottages with lovely views.
Sleeps 4 plus 2 bicycles. 01223
880777

France

FRENCH PROPERTY NEWS
monthly, for you a free copy Tel:
0171 847 5254

FOCUS ON FRANCE magazine. For
free copy Tel: 0171 542 9268

Overseas Property

Auctions

PROPERTY AUCTION
Thursday August 8th 1996 3.00pm
The Swan Hotel
Hawthorn Lane
Hawthorn

On behalf of the Executors

THE FRS
Westbrook
Dorstone
Herefordshire

Enjoying magnificent views
over the Wye Valley & S.S.W.
Acre smallholding with
unmodernised house and
outbuildings

All Enquiries to
Russell Baldwin & Bright
16a Castle Street
Hawthorn Lane
Hawthorn

Tel: 01497 821222

Country Property

DEEP PARK, Cricklade, near
Kendal. Super developments of
2 & 3 bed cottages with views over
rolling countryside. Prices from
£55,000 and for brochure 01531
658 925.

HORNWICK, near Burham Market,
Norfolk. Cottages with lovely views.
Sleeps 4 plus 2 bicycles. 01223
880777

France

FRENCH PROPERTY NEWS
monthly, for you a free copy Tel:
0171 847 5254

FOCUS ON FRANCE magazine. For
free copy Tel: 0171 542 9268

Overseas Property

To advertise in the Property Section please call

Jonathan Wilson on

0171 293 2343 or

Julianne Read on 0171 293 2037

Loft Conversions

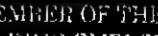
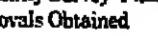
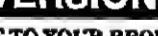
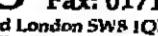
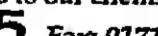
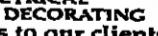
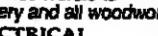
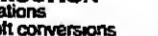
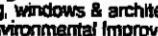
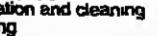
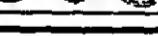
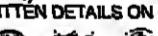
TOP
FLIGHT
LTD

THE LOFT CONVERSION SPECIALISTS

0181-566 8686

8am-9pm 7 DAYS

HAVEN GREEN CORNER,
HAVEN LANE, EALING W5 2HN



money

What is remarkable is just how well this portfolio of 10 shares – picked in 1966, the year that England won the World Cup and Harold

Wilson his second election – has stood the test of time

What would you put in an investment portfolio if the objective was not to touch the money for the next 30 years? The exercise was recently carried out by *Investors Chronicle*, and set me thinking on the same lines. In making its suggestions, the magazine referred back to a similar exercise which it had carried out 30 years ago – in 1966, the year that England won the World Cup and Harold Wilson his second election. The only difference then was that the objective was to produce a 50, not a 30-year portfolio.

The IC's Philip Ryland has kindly sent me the original article, by an anonymous author archly described only as "Uncle Willie", and splendidly dated it looks too. No mention of price/earnings ratios, for example, or any other fancy modern investment tools – dividend growth and dividend yield were the only measures widely used at the time.

In 1966, all the horrors of the 1970s – Opec, inflation, the winter of discontent – still lay ahead. This was still a world of much greater certainties, epitomised by a confident looking advertisement from the Eastbourne Mutual Building Society, offering savers a net rate of

4 per cent on their money – a rather better rate than you could find at a good many societies today.

What is remarkable is how well this portfolio of just 10 shares has stood the test of time. Not only would it have outperformed the All Share Index over the same period, but many of the names in it are still instantly recognisable. Only one of the component companies – Distillers, subject of the infamous takeover by Guinness in the mid-1980s – has since lost its independence. There could hardly be a better advertisement for the merits of investing in a well diversified portfolio of high quality companies with strong products or market positions.

The full list, in order of percentage gains over the period, is: Anglo American (5.006 per cent), BHP (3.696), Shell Transport (2.663), Marks & Spencer (2.583), Legal & General (1.953), Alliance Trust (1.528); Distillers (1.160); Royal Bank of Canada (1.139); Hudson's Bay (1.127); and Tri-Continental Corporation (88).

I was particularly glad to see the splendid Alliance Trust of Dundee earn a place in the list. Ironically, the Alliance is one of the five shares



JONATHAN DAVIS
INVESTMENTS

in the portfolio which has – so far – failed to heat the All Share Index, which is up 1.635 per cent over the comparable period (though remember there are still another 20 years to go). The three best performing shares to date, Shell, Anglo American and BHP, are all in the natural resource business. The three worst performers – and who would have guessed this? – have proved to be the North American companies.

The most interesting thing about this portfolio is what is not in it – no European companies, for example, and nothing from Japan, whose eco-

nomic miracle was only just getting under way. The two great growth industries of the last 15 years – drugs and software companies – are nowhere to be seen. Zantac, Glaxo's wonder drug for treating ulcers, had not even been invented.

It is clear from all this that dear old Uncle Willie had no great insight into the future, and like most of us, preferred to project forward the world as it was at the time. Nevertheless, by sticking to large and mostly first-class companies, he was able to produce a portfolio which nobody could accuse of being high risk, but which has still more than outperformed the market as a whole. The original £10,000 portfolio would now be worth, assuming all the dividends had been reinvested, something over £358,000. In real terms, I calculate, this represents an annual compound rate of return of 22.4 per cent in nominal terms, or 4.5 per cent after inflation.

So what about the future? Half of the IC's 1996 portfolio for the next 30 years consists of (1) index-linked gilts, which did not exist 30 years ago; and (2) two investment trusts – one a diversified international trust (England and Scottish

run by Gartmore, and the other an emerging markets trust run by Foreign & Colonial. The rest of the portfolio follows much the same policy as the 1966 one, concentrating on blue chip companies, including two from the original portfolio, Shell and Marks & Spencer.

Nobody could argue with either of those, nor with most of the other choices. British Airways, for example, looks a particularly good choice to me. It operates in a growth industry (air travel), it has good management and also retains a strong monopoly position on some of the busier routes in the world. The other companies in the list are Siebe, Glaxo Wellcome and two American companies, General Electric and Microsoft.

What is missing from this list? Well media companies seem one obvious example – Reuters would be one of my candidates. So too are technology companies – the problem here being that few future innovations, by definition, are easily predictable in advance. A technology investment trust might be a worthy addition for that reason. And if the criterion is companies with a proven track record of being able to

sustain the quality of their management across more than one generation – which is the truly remarkable part of the Marks & Spencer phenomenon – then Great Universal Stores would be another candidate from the same sector. Mercury Asset Management would be the quality representative of one of the City's fastest growing businesses, which is fund management itself.

The average life cycle of most large companies is slightly under 30 years. He may not have been very original, but the author of the 1966 portfolio was right about one thing. A good investor, he averred, needs an iron nerve and must not be "easily swayed by any gratuitous advice on how to get rich quick".

A footnote about the election. I wrote the other day that the odds are on Labour to win, but that the value bets are all on the other side. I now see that, between the start and the end of Euro 96, Ladbrokes cut the odds on a Conservative victory from 3-1 to 2-1 against. The mysterious hedged factor at work? Clearly there are others of you out there who have taken the message to heart.

Take your bits and bobs of shares down to the investment swap shop...

... and come away with a managed fund. Liam Robb looks at exchange schemes

138%. A GREAT RETURN FROM SAVE & PROSPER

CALL 0800 829 100

7 AM TO 9 PM SEVEN DAYS A WEEK

SAVE & PROSPER

*Except for the difference between the offer and bid prices. This is currently 0.5%. The value of investments, and any income from them, can fall as well as rise and you may not get back the full amount you invested. Exchange rates also may cause the value of underlying investments to go up or down. Past performance is not a guide to future returns. On 24.5.96 the investment objective of the fund, formally known as Scotts, was broadened from investment in financial services to investment in any economic sector. Tax concessions can change and their value will depend on your circumstances. Save & Prosper Group Limited is regulated by the Personal Investment Authority and IMRO. We only advise on products and services offered by the Flemings and Save & Prosper Marketing Group.



Popular capitalism: Investors who responded to offers like this BP flotation have often ended up with an unwieldy portfolio

Many investors who over the years bought shares in the privatised utilities have gradually found themselves with what amounts to a share portfolio.

The individual stocks tend to be in small parcels, however, and when they think of selling they find high brokerage fees and stamp duty would swallow most of the profit; and because many investors do not have the time constantly to monitor the performance of the portfolio, the share certificates tend to gather dust in a drawer somewhere, a small nest egg for the future perhaps, or something to hand down to the children. Dividend payments, when they arrive, tend to be in smaller rather than pounds.

The pooled fund industry realised that these share holdings combined represented a rich vein of untapped investable money, and share exchange schemes were born. The schemes provide a cheap and simple way for investors, in effect, to mop up their small shareholdings and divert the proceeds into a diversified fund.

In one form or another they have been in existence for some time. As an example, independent financial advisers Best PEP recommend Perpetual's scheme, which will accept any FTSE 100 stocks (subject to a minimum holding of £1,000) and sell them free of charge, provided the money is reinvested in a Perpetual fund. Johnson Fry will deal for 1 per cent (minimum £17.50) for a list of popular shares. Alternatively, Best PEP will sell shares at a flat rate of £20 per stock providing the money is reinvested in one of their recommended PEPs.

Abtrust and M&G run share exchange schemes and Mercury Asset Management have launched a plan allowing investors to exchange any number of shares in a UK-listed company if the proceeds are reinvested in one of a range of Mercury unit trusts. The minimum investment is £5,000 – any shortfall can be made up with a cheque.

Investment trust companies also offer share exchange schemes and Flemings Investment Trust Management (FITM) has a permanent scheme which will exchange any UK

The minimum investment is £500 but investors can add cash to a smaller holding to make up the difference.

Amanda Crowley, at the financial advisers Allenbridge, notes that share exchange plans are not exclusively to the benefit of small shareholders. "Although the schemes are aimed at people with small bits and bobs, they also offer people who have large portfolios a cost-efficient way of accessing PEPs. With a PEP you have to purchase your stock from cash anyway, so even if someone held BT shares, for example, and wanted to transfer that stock to a PEP, they would first have to sell them and then re-invest the cash. It is, in effect, a bed & breakfast transaction," she says. So a share exchange can substantially reduce the total cost of switching into a PEP.

For those investors who have ended up with a motley collection of small holdings in the privatised companies and who decide that they would like to realise the cash, it is worth checking to see whether the company that actually issued the shares is operating some form of share exchange scheme.

Some privatised companies have decided to start their own schemes – in no small part because having a large number of small shareholders causes administrative problems.

The National Grid, for example, offered a completely free dealing service for those customers who ended up with 500 shares or less following the sell-off of the electricity boards. And Scottish Hydro-Electric is offering a postal dealing service between 10 July and 30 September, charging 1 per cent commission on sales and purchase of their shares. Railtrack, among others, may consider similar plans.

WORLDCOVER

ANNUAL TRAVEL INSURANCE
CALL US ON 0800 365 121

July 1996

Why nuclear power is not for green investors

The British Energy share offer is beyond the environmental pale, says Charles Millar, an ecological investment analyst



Accidents will happen: The risk is slight but after events such as Chernobyl, is it a gamble worth taking?

The Jupiter Ecology Fund will not participate in the impending British Energy share offer. The fund, like other "green" funds, regards nuclear power as being beyond the environmental pale.

Green investors, therefore, do not need to concern themselves too deeply with questions about the industry's eccentric economics. They do not need to ask why an industry consisting of eight power stations is being sold off for less than the cost of constructing one station, or whether this has anything to do with the removal of nice low, creative, public-sector discount rates and unquantifiable future liabilities.

So what are the environmental concerns? There are several, many of which have been wheeled out before, but that does not undermine their validity. Firstly, there is the problem of accidental releases of radioactive material.

The risk of such releases is very slight indeed. However, as the consequences are potentially so devastating many think it is a gamble not worth taking. Included in that number are doubtless Welsh sheep farmers whose knowledge of Ukrainian power systems was minimal until the ill-fated safety exercise at Chernobyl 10 years ago.

Many will counter this accident argument by pointing out that UK nuclear facilities are much better than old Soviet ones. That is true, and what is more, even critics like Greenpeace have said that there's no overwhelming reason for a privatised UK nuclear industry to be more unsafe than a publicly owned one.

Nevertheless, the safety record of Nuclear Electric (as it was) is not great; a £13,000 fine for a corroded safety pipe in October last year and a £250,000 fine the month before for what the Nuclear Installations Inspectorate called a "blatant fail-

ure in Nuclear Electric's safety culture" are two recent events which spring to mind. As will be confirmed from Kyoto in Japan to Three Mile Island in the USA, accidental releases can and do happen.

The second concern relates to operational discharges to the environment. These are discharges which are part of the routine. The nuclear industry refers to "tolerable risk" when assessing them. What may be tolerable to a statistician will probably not be tolerable to a victim of cancer. This may sound like hyperbole, but if the risk-assessment statistics by the authorities are fair, then victims there will be.

Given that nuclear power is not actually necessary - its economic benefits are dubious at best, and it provides some 20 per cent of our power when government estimates indicate that there is scope for about a 30 per cent reduction in demand through energy efficiency - the ethical dimension of this issue takes on a clear significance. Many green and ethical investors hold that these risks alone make an investment in the industry intolerable.

One sub-issue is the reprocessing of spent nuclear fuel, a by-product of which is plutonium - a raw material for nuclear weapons. However great the safeguards, there will be concern about this link. Fears over nuclear proliferation have been very important in the US government's refusal to grant permission for such facilities.

However, perhaps the biggest concern is related to the routine disposal of radioactive waste. From low-level waste (which could be as lightly contaminated as a pair of old overalls) to high-level waste (such as used fuel rods) there is little that can be done except to dig a big hole and bury it. Of course, it is a lot more sophisticated than that, but it is still

disposal which lies at the bottom of the environmentalists' waste management hierarchy.

And when disposal involves substances which are still pumping out heat, it becomes even less palatable. If the difficulty in avoiding leaks from municipal waste disposal sites is anything to go by, there are grounds for disquiet over the effectiveness of the proposed deep disposal sites.

But is it all bad news? Well, no. Nuclear power stations produce minimal amounts of carbon dioxide - the primary anthropogenic culprit of global warming. They are also blameless when it comes to the sulphur dioxide emissions which acidify our rain. Each of these attributes earns the industry a big tick on the green investor's checklist.

But they are not attributes unique to nuclear power; hydro, wind, solar and bio-fuels are all proven carbon-neutral at worst and increasingly commercial. As for sulphur, there is existing technology (be it "clean-coal" combustion or chimney "scrubbers") to all but eliminate this problem. There are, therefore, alternatives to nuclear which have similar merits but lower risks.

So where does that leave the green investor? As ever, he has to make a subjective judgement against a background knowledge that no investment is perfectly green. But more importantly, he should be guided by the precautionary principle - which, in practice for a green or ethical portfolio says: "If in doubt leave it out".

Charles Millar is environmental analyst at Jupiter Asset Management, investment managers of the Jupiter Ecology Fund and the Jupiter International Green Investment Trust. Tel 0171-412 0703

The pros and cons of investing in British Energy

The British Energy share offer closes at noon next Wednesday so decisions really need to be taken this weekend. The minimum application is for 300 shares, and investors who are registered through a share shop for the public offer are being asked to pay a first instalment of 100p a share, compared with 105p by institutions who buy through the international offer. Small investors will also be entitled to choose a share bonus

only goes to show that putting a true value on the offer is virtually impossible. Notwithstanding the ethical objections the only hard financial information is that British Energy made a loss of 22.1p in the year to 31 March, 1996, but a net dividend of 13.7p a share is forecast for the year to 31 March, 1997. If the final offer price is 275p and investors go for the bonus shares, not the discount, the dividend would represent a yield

of 6.23 per cent before tax, and at 175p the yield would rocket to 9.79 per cent. Several leading investment houses have given the issue the thumbs-down, and the City is certainly looking for a yield of over 8 per cent on British Energy. But all the small investor really needs to know is that the second instalment is not due until 16 September next year. The interim dividend of 4.6p net will be paid in January, and a further 9.1p next July.

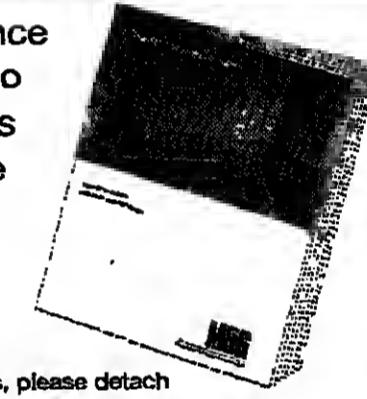
NEW Free M&G Handbook 1996

Over 50 pages of facts, figures and performance statistics offering a comprehensive guide to M&G's investment products and services. This new edition contains a section on our tax free PEP range, including our 3 PEP funds with:

• No initial charge

• No withdrawal fee after 5 years

For your free copy and details of M&G's future investment opportunities, please detach and return the coupon or telephone 0990 600 621 or e-mail on hb@MandG.reply.co.uk



To: The M&G Group, Bristol BS38 7ET. Please send me a free copy of the new M&G Handbook and details of M&G's future investment opportunities.

NO SALESMAN WILL CALL.

You should contact your independent financial adviser (if you have one) before investing. The price of units and the income from them can go down as well as up. The value to you of the tax benefits will depend on your own circumstances. The tax regime of PEPs could change in the future.

Mr/Mrs/ Miss	INITIALS	SURNAME
ADDRESS		
		POSTCODE
GG-1AAETF		

M&G does not offer investment advice or offer any recommendations regarding investments. We only market the packaged products and services of the M&G marketing group.

Issued by M&G Financial Services Limited (Regulated by The Personal Investment Authority). M&G Unit Trusts are managed by M&G Securities Limited. (Regulated by IMRC and The Personal Investment Authority.)

We never make your name and address available to unconnected organisations. We will occasionally tell you about other products or services offered by ourselves and associated M&G Companies.

Tick the box if you would prefer not to receive this information.

M&G

Managing your money for the longer term

The M&G PEP



PENSIONS BY PHONE

24 hours a day..... 7 days a week..... Now you can pick up the phone and get pensions information or advice and even set up a plan, quickly and without fuss.

0345 6789 10

SCOTTISH WIDOWS

money

Best borrowing rates

Telephone	% Rate and period	Max adv %	Fee	Incentive	Redemption penalty
MORTGAGES					
Fixed rates					
Scarborough BS	0800 590547	0.20 for 1 year	85	0.75%	—
West Bromwich BS	0121 5257070	6.55 to 1/1/99	85	£295	£300 cash rebate
FirstMortgage BS	0800 080088	7.40 to 1/6/01	90	£275	—
Variable rates					
Hinckley & Rugby BS	0800 774499	0.00 for 9 months	70	£250	Free valuation
Greenwich BS	0181 8588212	4.19 for 3 years	95	—	1st 5 yrs: discount reclaimed
Bradford & Bingley BS	0800 252993	5.54 for 5 years	85	—	6 mths free ASU
First time buyers fixed rates					
Bristol & West BS	0800 608088	0.95 to 30/6/97	90	£275	—
Lambeth BS	0800 225221	4.19 to 1/9/98	95	£295	0.5% of adv rebated
Northern Rock BS	0800 591500	7.49 to 1/8/01	95	£295	1st 5 yrs: 5% of sum repaid
First time buyers variable rates					
Principality BS	01222 344188	1.00 to 1/7/97	90	—	—
Greenwich BS	0181 8588212	3.39 for 2 years	95	—	1st 5 yrs: discount reclaim
Halifax BS	0800 101110	5.43 to 30/9/01	90	—	£300 & free valn
PERSONAL LOANS					
Telephone	APR				
Unsecured					
Direct Line	0141 248 9866	13.90%		Fixed monthly payments (£3,000 over 3 years)	
Alliance & Leicester	0116 262 6262	14.80		With insurance	
Midland Bank	0800 180180	14.90		Without insurance	
Secured (second charge)					
Clydesdale Bank	0800 240024	7.50	Neg	£3K-£15K	6 mths to 26 years
Royal & of Scotland	0131 523 7023	8.70	70%	£2.5K-£100K	3 years to retirement
Barclays Bank	0800 000923	9.3/9.6 wet 1.8.96	80%	£10K-75K	5 to 25 years
OVERDRAFTS					
Telephone	Account	Authorised	Unauthorised		
Woolwich BS	0800 400900	Current	0.76	9.5	2.18
Alliance & Leicester	0500 959595	Alliance	0.76	9.5	2.20
Abbey National	0500 200500	Current	0.94	11.9	2.18
CREDIT CARDS					
Telephone	Card	Min %	Rate	APR	
Standard	income	pm %	%	fee	Annual int. free period
Robert Fleming/S&P	0800 829024	MasterCard/Visa	—	0.8958	11.20
NatWest Bank	0800 200400	Access	0.95%	12.00%	n/a
Robert Fleming/S&P	0800 829024	MasterCard/Visa	—	1.00	14.00
Gold cards					
Co-operative Bank	0345 212212	Visa	£20,000	0.4792	10.32
NatWest Bank	0800 200400	Visa	£20,000	1.14	15.90
Lloyds Bank	via branch	MasterCard	£20,000	1.15	16.50
STORE CARDS					
Telephone		Payment by direct debit		Payment by other methods	
John Lewis	in store	—	% pm	APR	
Marks & Spencer	01244 681681	—	—	1.39	18.00
Sears	in store	1.87	24.80	1.97	26.30
		1.94	25.90	2.20	29.80

APR Annualised percentage rate. B+C Buildings and Contents insurance (UV Loan to value) ASU Accident, sickness and unemployment E Available to comprehensive motor insurance policyholders aged over 22 years.
N Introductory rate for a limited period.
All rates subject to change without notice.

Source: MONEYFACTS 01692 500677

4 July 1996

Best savings rates

Telephone number	Account	Notice or term	Deposit	Rate %	Interest interval
Portman BS	01202 222444	Instant Access	£100	4.80	Year
Sun Banking Corp	01438 744505	Liquidity	Instant	225,000	5.25 Year
Skipton BS	01756 700511	High Street	Instant	£20,000	5.50 Year
Direct Line	0181 667 1121	Instant Savings	Instant	£50,000	5.75 Year

SISTERS

Telephone number	Account	Notice or term	Deposit	Rate %	Interest interval
Yorkshire BS	0800 378836	First Class Access	Postal	£1,000	4.90 Year
Alliance & Leic BS	0845 6456500	Instant Direct	Postal	£5,000	5.40 Year
Leeds & Halifax BS	0123 225 7755	Albion	Postal	£10,000	5.80 Year
Northern Rock BS	0800 505000	Great North Postal	Postal	£25,000	6.50 A Year

CREDIT ACCOUNTS

Telephone number	Account	Notice or term	Deposit	Rate %	Interest interval
Kleinwort Benson	01202 502204	HICA	Instant	£2,500	5.00 Month
Halifax BS	01422 335333	Asset Reserve	Instant	£10,000	4.30 Quarter
Chelsea BS	0800 717515	Classic Postal	Instant	£10,000	4.75 Year
Chelsea BS	0800 717515	Classic Postal	Instant	£25,000	5.00 Year

FIXED RATE BONDS

Telephone number	Account	Notice or term	Deposit	Rate %	Interest interval
Bristol & West BS	0800 202121	Year Plus Fixed Bond	5/11/97	£5,000	6.50F Maturity
Universal BS	0800 281996	Fixed Rate Bond	2 Year	£5,000	7.00F Year
Northern Rock BS	0800 505000	Postal Deposit Bond	30/5/99	£2,500	7.50F Year
Banca BS	0800 132304	High Income Bond	1/1/2001	£50,000	7.75F Year

SISTERS

Telephone number	Account	Notice or term	Deposit	Rate %	Interest interval
Financial Assurance	0181 380 3388	1 year	£5,000	4.60FN Year	
Financial Assurance	0181 207 9007	2 years	£3,000	5.55FN Year	
Financial Assurance	0181 207 9007	3 years	£3,000	5.90FN Year	
Financial Assurance	0181 207 9007	4 years	£3,000	6.40FN Year	
Financial Assurance	0181 207 9007	5 years	£3,000	6.55FN Year	

INVESTMENT ACCOUNTS (gross)

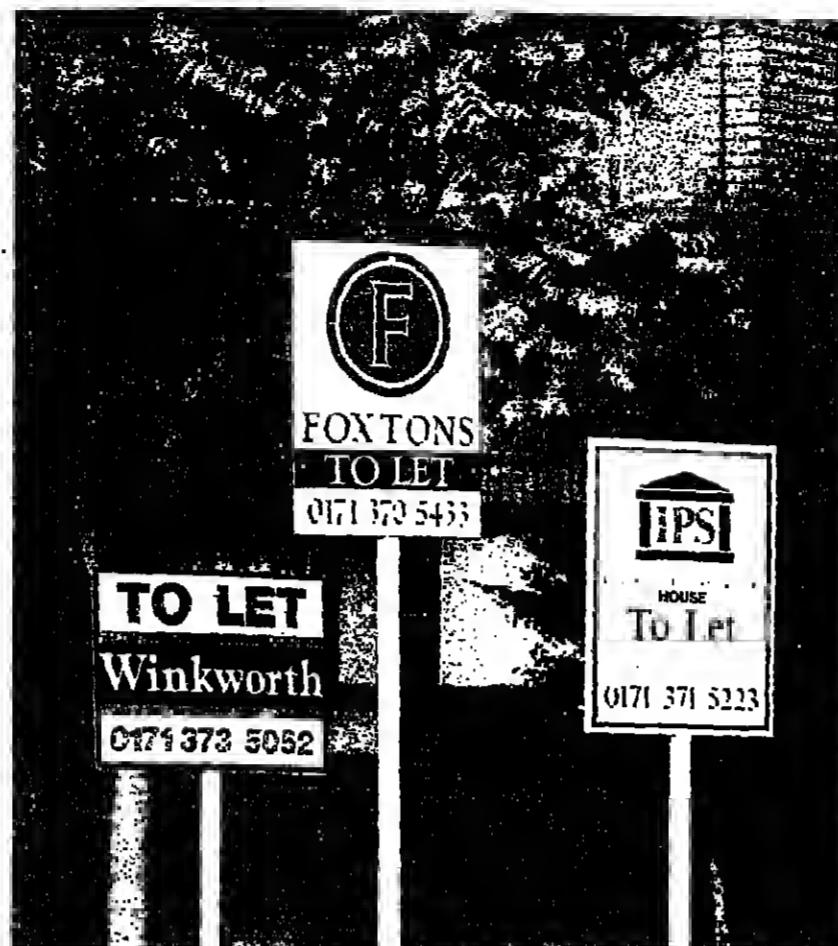
Telephone number	Account	Notice or term	Deposit	Rate %	Interest interval
Northern Rock, Guern	01481 714600	Offshore Instant	Instant	£10,000	6.30 Year
Northern Rock, Guern	01481 714600	Offshore Instant	Instant	£50,000	6.60 Year
Britannia International	01624 626512	2 Year Bond	31/12/98	£5,000	7.00F Year
Skipton, Guern	01481 727374	3 Year Bond	31/5/99	£10,000	7.40F Year

NATIONAL SAVINGS ACCOUNTS (gross)

Telephone number	Account	Notice or term	Deposit	Rate %	Interest interval
Investment Accounts		1 month	£20	5.00	Year
			£500	5.50	Year
			£25,000	5.75	Month
Income Bonds		3 months	£2,000	6.25	Month
Capital Bond	Series J	5 years	£100	6.65F	Year
First Option Bonds		12 months	£1,000	6.25F	Year
Pensioner's G'leed Income Bond	Series 3	5 years	£500	7.00F	Month
NS Certificates (tax-free)	43rd Issue	5 years	£100	5.55F	Month
Pensioner's G'leed Income Bond					

To let: desirable residence with negative equity

Renting out your house is one way to escape the trap. Ian Hunter explains how it's done



Despite the encouraging rumblings in the property market, many home-owners remain confined in the negative equity trap. For those people renting out their homes, in the short term at least, may be more financially prudent than selling them at a loss.

This used to be impossible. Mortgage deeds usually state that a property can only be sublet with the lender's permission. Unauthorised subletting normally provides the lender with the option of cancelling the loan, coupled with the right to sell the property to recover its money. And letting property used to be fraught with risk of not being able to get it back again.

Things have changed however and a number of lenders, such as independent broker John Charcol and Mortgage Express, part of the Lloyds TSB group, now actually advertise mortgages to help home-owners escape negative equity by moving to a cheaper home and paying for it by letting out their original home.

Most lenders will now consider requests to rent out mortgaged property, although most will charge an administration fee for considering borrowers' requests for permission to sublet. Usually lenders want to satisfy themselves that the letting will not affect their ability to get possession of

the property if the borrower defaults on the mortgage repayments. So the lender will usually require the tenancy agreement to record its right to possession if the borrower defaults.

Most landlords usually grant their tenants an agreement in the form of an assured shorthold tenancy. These tenancies give the tenant a minimum of six months' security of tenure. However, at any time after the first four months of the tenancy agreement, the tenant can be asked to leave on two months' notice.

Landlords should avoid granting tenants possession until the documentation has been prepared and completed. Allowing occupancy and accepting rent from a tenant before the assured shorthold tenancy has been signed will provide the tenant with greatly increased protection if the landlord should subsequently try to evict him.

The tax regime governing rental income is complex. Those working abroad normally lose their Miras relief. However, there is an Inland Revenue concession which allows relief to continue for temporary absences of up to a year, or up to four years where a taxpayer is required to work away from home.

The advantage with Miras relief is that it can be set against income from

any source. However those with larger mortgages are better off setting the rental income against mortgage interest payments, rather than claiming Miras relief.

Interest payments on the entire property loan (not just the first £30,000) can be set against the tax payable on rental income as long as the property is rented for at least 26 weeks in each year.

The Inland Revenue advises landlords to keep a careful note of rents received and where possible receipts for expenses.

In addition the Inland Revenue provides a 'Rent a Room' scheme under which landlords, provided they satisfy certain requirements, are entitled to receive up to the first £3,250 free of tax. However, under this scheme expenses cannot be claimed. The scheme is designed primarily for those taking in lodgers.

Those renting out their homes for prolonged periods should be aware that they risk having to pay capital gains tax on a proportion of the profit made on any subsequent sale of the property. Relief from CGT is only available on the sale of a property if it is the owner's 'only or main residence'. This relief will be reduced if during a period of ownership it is rented out for large proportions of time.

Tenants in the UK who pay rent directly to non-resident landlords must, by law, withhold basic rate tax on the rent paid. The tenant should then pay the tax to the Inland Revenue. This applies even if the rent is paid into the UK bank account.

One route by which this can be avoided is by appointing an agent, who could be a friend.

Rent can be paid to a duly appointed agent without deduction. The agent will be accountable for the payment of the tax on the rent received on behalf of the landlord. A professional agent is likely to seek an indemnity from the landlord.

An inventory should be prepared of the property's contents. It may also be useful to take photographs of the property before the tenancy begins.

This will help to minimise arguments as to who is responsible for any restorative work necessary at the end of the tenancy. One option is to agree at the outset that the tenant will be responsible for cleaning and redecorating the property.

The tenant should also be asked to provide a deposit as a form of insurance against any loss or damage. All those renting their homes should be aware of one blunt landlord's advice: 'Don't leave anything in the flat that you want to get back.'



LOOSE CHANGE

Flemings is marking the introduction of Crest, the paperless share dealing system, on July 15 by abolishing its 1 per cent initial charge on its Fleming Investment Trusts Share Plan, and its 2 per cent charge for switching funds between its 20 separate specialised trusts. Stamp duty charges still apply. The plan accepts regular investments down to £40 and lump sums of £400.

Award-winning Waverley Unit Trust Management is launching a Japanese Smaller Companies fund with a minimum investment of £1,000 to take advantage of the Japanese economic recovery.

By taking out a Saga Visa Card with no annual fee and an APR of 18.9 per cent on unpaid balances, 18 million over-50s could get discounts of up to 23 per cent off regional telephone calls (but not local calls), and up to 41 per cent off international calls. Ring freephone 0800-300225 for details.

Leeds & Holbeck Building Society has cut its mortgage offer, fixed until January 2000, from 6.75 per cent to 6.49 per cent on loans of up to 75 per cent of valuation. On loans up to 90 per cent the rate remains at 6.75 per cent but up to 95 per cent is available at 6.99 per cent. Without insurance add 0.24 per cent. There is no penalty for redemption after the fixed rate period ends.

Close Fund Management is launching Close Capital Account Fund, which offers a return of 5.2 per cent a year, classed as capital gains not income. Funds can be withdrawn on a daily basis, and there are no initial charges on funds through the end of July. The minimum investment is £5,000. Call 0800-269824 for details.

TSB has launched a new type of electrical warranty covering call-out charges, parts and labour on appliances up to seven years old through a network of approved engineers. Initially on offer in South-West England, South Wales and East Scotland, it covers the TV, washing machine, fridge and cooker for as little as £2.50 a week. Call 0645-758750.

Current specialist Travelex is packaging around £3 worth of coins in 10 popular currencies to help travellers meet immediate cash needs such as tips and taxes when they arrive at their destinations. Coin packs are available at Travelex branches at main UK airports and at Farthing Corner for cross-Channel

motorists. Travelex also offers a commission-free buy-back of up to 30 per cent of unused currency orders worth over £200.

Antif, the unit trust trade body is relaunching its free guide to Corporate Bond PEPs to mark the first anniversary of their launch today. Call 0181-207-1361.

Telephone-based insurer Prospero Direct is launching a family motor policy which allows younger members to earn a no-claims bonus in their own right when they want to insure a car of their own. By starting out on the Family Policy, a good record will mean the first premium they pay for themselves could qualify for a no-claims bonus of up to 70 per cent after five claim-free years.

Specialist insurance broker Manson Warner Healthcare, based in Manchester, is offering medical insurance policyholders the opportunity to switch from one insurer to another without penalty, to take advantage of competitive rates. Conditions covered under the existing plan remain fully insured on transfer. Natwest Stockbrokers and BrokerLine, its telephone-based dealing service, are offering clients free sponsored membership of Crest for a year. Sponsored membership, worth £20, allows individuals to buy and sell shares electronically without the need to hold and deliver share certificates or having to transfer their holding to a nominee service.

Schroders Emerging Countries Fund went on sale this week. It expects to invest 53 per cent in Asia, 27 per cent in Latin America, and 14 per cent in Eastern Europe and the Middle East. Up to 100 million shares are on offer at 100p a share, and the minimum application is £2,000. Initial charges are 4.5 per cent and the annual charge 1.25 per cent.

Royal Bank of Scotland's escalating fixed rate Tessa, paying 6.75 per cent in the first year rising to 10.75 per cent in the fifth, will turn £9,000 into £12,939, topping the list of best roll-over Tessas, according to Blay's Guide.

Touchline Insurance is cutting home contents insurance premiums for the over-40s. Call 0800-207800. Independent Insurance (no relation) is offering its Simple Guide to Classic Car Insurance free to readers who call 01732-865211. It discusses definitions, mileage limitations, security requirements and discounts available.

PENNY SHARES ARE BOOMING!

444%* average gains recorded on shares that cost less than £1 EACH!

It's a fact! Penny Shares could make you a fortune on the Stock Market. Last year the Stock Market's top 5 performing shares made an average gain of 444%. And 4 out of 5 of these amazing movers were Penny Shares!

Penny Shares are often in smaller companies - which is excellent news if you are about to invest. Our research shows that in the 3 years following the last two recessions, smaller companies (and therefore Penny Shares) outperformed the rest of the market by a significant margin. It happened after the '74/75 slump. It happened after the recession of the early '80s... and now, as we enter a period of dynamic economic recovery, the value of Penny Shares could continue to soar. So ask yourself - do you have the time it takes to comb the Stock Market week after week? Do you have the contacts who are close enough to the action to let you in on the most promising shares? And do you have the experience to recognise profit opportunities?

TAKE CONTROL OF YOUR FUTURE WEALTH

Now you can seize this booming market for yourself. PENNY SHARE GUIDE is Britain's premier newsletter for tipping those smaller companies that show the most explosive potential for growth and profit. And you can claim your FREE issue right NOW!

Step by step, share by share, PENNY SHARE GUIDE tells you when to buy, when to hold, and when to sell to minimise your risk and maximise your profits. Today, over 20,000 readers are getting regular supplies of this exclusive advice -

CLAIM YOUR FREE COPY NOW

Prepare to be amazed by what you'll read. Take your first step into the exciting world of Penny Shares. Call FREE on 0500 823 873 NOW or simply fill in the coupon below (no stamp required) and get the latest issue of PENNY SHARE GUIDE... ABSOLUTELY FREE.

Penny Share Guide, FREEPOST, NW3521, Edinburgh EH4 0FX

*Total price to mid-price, excluding dealing fees and dividends. Source: Investors Top 20 Issues 1995-1996. The price is not necessarily a guide to future performance. Investments in smaller companies generally have a higher risk than larger companies and it can be more difficult to realise such an investment. The investment is not suitable for everyone. If you have any doubts, you should seek expert advice.

I want to be a part of today's Penny Share profit boom! Please send me my FREE copy of PENNY SHARE GUIDE PLUS my FREE Penny Share market report pack and details of a special half-price offer for one year's subscription to PENNY SHARE GUIDE, including how I can claim my FREE investment book worth £25.

Mr/Mrs/Ms _____

NAME: _____

ADDRESS: _____

Postcode: _____

Send to: Penny Share Guide, FREEPOST, NW3521, Edinburgh EH4 0FX (No stamp required)

Approved by First Step Publications Ltd Registered by FIMERA

NEW FUND LAUNCH

A whole new world of exciting investments, if you know where to look.

For an exciting investment with serious long term growth prospects, turn to the developing world - with the new Schroder Emerging Countries Fund plc.

This new investment trust aims to invest in the brightest opportunities in Asia, Latin America, Eastern Europe and Africa: where countries are entering or have already entered a period of rapid industrialisation - and potentially offer dramatic stockmarket growth.

These opportunities will be tracked

down by one of the UK's leading emerging markets fund managers - Schroders. With our extensive local resources we are in an excellent position to identify companies with the very best growth prospects.

Turn potential into profit, with Schroders. Invest in the Schroder Emerging Countries Fund plc.

For more information call 0800 002 000 or return the coupon. Brochures will be sent out shortly.

Call 0800 002 000 Quoting ref: 34

TO: SCHRODER INVESTMENT MANAGEMENT LIMITED, 01754 FREEPOST 22 (SW1565) LONDON W1E 7EZ.
Please send me a brochure and application forms for the Schroder Emerging Countries Fund plc.

Name: _____

Address: _____

Past performance is not necessarily a guide to the future. The value of investments and the income from them may fall as well as rise and investors may not get back the amount they originally invested. Potential investors should be aware that investment in emerging countries involves an above average degree of risk. The Company will invest in securities which are not denominated or quoted in sterling and movements in exchange rates may affect the value of the Company's securities to fluctuate. Investment in the Company should be regarded as long term in nature. Issued by Schroder Investment Management Limited regulated by IMRO.

Schroders

12.45-13.15 S10

staying in

MONDAY		TUESDAY		WEDNESDAY		THURSDAY		FRIDAY	
Television by Gerard Gilbert	Radio by Robert Hanks	Geordiequake 8pm C4. Susan Tully, formerly Michelle Fowler from <i>EastEnders</i> , hits the road to find out more about the shift in paid work from men to women (1021).	True Stories: Gordonstoun 8pm C4. One term in the life of the Scottish public school (above) famous for making Prince Charles unhappy, although it's liberalised now (80953199).	Film: Far and Away (Ron Howard 1992) 8.30pm BBC1. Irish tenant farmer turned bare-knuckle fighter, Tom Cruise (above), makes a life for himself and his coleen Nicole Kidman in the New World (6403).	Sir 7.30pm BBC2. Letters to <i>The Times</i> from 1913 to 1919 and read by famous actors to shine a light on those turbulent years (985).	Secret History 9pm C4 (above). The battle of Goose Green has gone down as the heroic battle that clinched the Falklands War. But was it necessary - and was it so heroic? (6326).	What Line Is It 8pm 2 10.30pm C4. New series of the improv show. Clive Anderson (above) rounds up the usual suspects (479831).		
If I Were Prime Minister 8pm C4. Outrageous comedienne Jenny Eclair (above) is the first of six people asked to give their vision of Britain. Higher taxes for the fat, and a free garden shed for all men are on the agenda (1021).	The Final Passage 9pm C4. The second half of Caryl Phillips' fine drama about West Indian immigrants to 1950s Britain (38817392).	Clash of the Titans 9.45pm BBC2. The long-running rivalry between middle-distance runners Seb Coe and Steve Ovett (329446).	Secret History 9pm C4 (above). The battle of Goose Green has gone down as the heroic battle that clinched the Falklands War. But was it necessary - and was it so heroic? (6326).	Family Business (Sidney Lumet 1989) 8.30pm BBC1. Sean Connery, Dustin Hoffman and Matthew Broderick are three generations of the same criminal family (76180430).	Return 11.05pm C4. Return of the public service slot for homemade videos (112657).	Flame Torch Song Trilogy (Paul Bogart 1988) 10.30pm C4. Gay romantic comedy-drama transfers from stage to screen with Harvey Fierstein repeating his Tony-winning role as the Semitic drag queen in search of love. Matthew Broderick (above) (21338473).			
The Final Passage 9pm C4. The second half of Caryl Phillips' fine drama about West Indian immigrants to 1950s Britain (38817392).	Clash of the Titans 9.45pm BBC2. The long-running rivalry between middle-distance runners Seb Coe and Steve Ovett (329446).	Film: Bonnie and Clyde (Arthur Penn 1967) 10.20pm BBC1. Warren Beatty and Faye Dunaway shoot their way across the USA (400880).	Secret History 9pm C4 (above). The battle of Goose Green has gone down as the heroic battle that clinched the Falklands War. But was it necessary - and was it so heroic? (6326).	Wild Harvest with Nick Nairn 8.30pm BBC2 (not Scott). Self-taught chef Nairn begins his guide to Scottish cuisine on Tayside (5010).	Return 11.05pm C4. Return of the public service slot for homemade videos (112657).	Flame Torch Song Trilogy (Paul Bogart 1988) 10.30pm C4. Gay romantic comedy-drama transfers from stage to screen with Harvey Fierstein repeating his Tony-winning role as the Semitic drag queen in search of love. Matthew Broderick (above) (21338473).			
Reading (9170939) 11.00 Sid's Heroes (1945). 11.30 The Knowledge (2674).	Countryfile (16007). 12.30 On the Record (28533).	Itsy Bitsy Teenie Weenie (9pm R2). On 7 July 1946 the first bikini was let loose upon the world. To celebrate that event, <i>Holiday</i> presenter Jill Dando looks back at its history from bathing huts to <i>Baywatch</i> .	Grub's Up! (8.35pm R4). Could insects be the answer to world hunger? Cricket lollipops and locust burgers are just some of the culinary delights that are under the microscope in Joanne Flinck's creepy feature.	The Wireless Lady (8pm R4). Winifred Leslie was once the grande dame of radio drama. Now she lives alone and has only her Bakelite wireless for company. The great Gillian Whitlow stars in Peter Tinniswood's nostalgic drama.	Left and Right (8pm R4) 8pm FM. Experts reveal everything you've always wanted to know about leftists and rightists but were afraid to ask. "Hey, listen" you can hear some producer saying. "I've got a great idea for a programme."				

Sunday television and radio

BBC1

7.30 **Moomin** (9581216). 7.55 **Playdays** (5313303). 8.15 **Lingot** (6637804). 8.30 **Breakfast with Frost** (81755). 9.30 **The Good Book Guide** (9025668). 9.45 **First Light** (242007). 10.15 **See Hear** (812216). 10.45 **Help Your Child with Reading** (9170939). 11.00 **Sid's Heroes** (1945). 11.30 **The Knowledge** (2674). 12.00 **Countryfile** (16007). 12.30 **On the Record** (28533).

1.30 **Sunday Grandstand: Wimbledon** 96. Desmond Lynham introduces the climax of the All-England Championships, the men's singles final, which starts at 2pm (Subsequent programmes may change) (S) (3443262). * 5.00 **Cartoon** (7456668). 5.25 **Stirrups' Story of Painting**. The toothy, art-loving nun continues her enjoyable gallop round the history of art in the hills of Tuscany, whither she has gone to look at the master work of Giotto di Bondone (S) (7459755). * 5.55 **News**, *Weather* (9583397). * 6.15 **Regional News** (542397). 6.20 **Songs of Praise**, from York (S) (812484). * 6.55 **Antiques Roadshow**. Instant valuations from 1993 as the team hits Crawley (R) (S) (148571).

7.40 **No Bananas**. With the Battle of Britain raging, Evelyn is determined to send a reluctant William to Canada (S) (389552). * 8.30 **Birds of a Feather**, Sharon, Tracey and Doreen reminisce about their first loves (R) (S) (7571). * 9.00 **Killing Me Softly**. Controversial drama based on the true story of Sara Thornton, found guilty in 1990 of murdering her husband, Malcolm. She claimed that she was driven to it by her husband's violence. Maggie O'Neill and Peter Howitt star. See *Preview*, p28 (S) (9910). * 10.30 **News**, *Weather* (920620).

10.45 **Olympic Diaries**. New series eavesdropping on the video diaries of the hopeful British athletes bound for Atlanta: the rowers Steve Redgrave and Matthew Pinsent, hurdler Tony Jarrett, yachtswoman Shirley Robertson, three-day eventer Karen Dixon, 1,500m runner Kelly Holmes, and gymnast Annika Reeder (867571).

11.45 **Rollercoaster** (James Goldstone 1977 US). Extrortionist Timmy Bottoms is planting bombs at amusement parks in this ho-hum disaster movie also starring George Segal, Richard Widmark, Henry Fonda, Susan Strasberg and Robert Quarry (420991).

1.40 **Weather** (5094750). To 1.45pm. **REGIONS: Wales**: 12.00pm *Homeland*. 1.40 **News**; *Weather*. **Ni**: 10.45pm *Irish Open GOLF*. 11.30 **Olympic Diaries**. 12.30 **Film: The Big Steal**. 1.40 **Weather**.

BBC2

6.15 **Open University**. 9.10 **Rupert** (4419587). 9.15 **The Littlest Pet Shop** (3838393). 9.35 **X-Men** (17490533). 10.00 **Fully Booked** (51668). 12.00 **Regional Programmes** (14649). 12.30 **EastEnders Omnibus** (1176216).

1.55 **Bridge on the River Kwai** (David Lean 1957 UK). Academy Award-showered war drama that is at its best with Alec Guinness's performance as the stiff-upper-lipped colonel who tries to restore morale at a Japanese POW camp in Burma by getting the men to work on a railway bridge for the Japs. William Holden, Jack Hawkins, Sessue Hayakawa, James Donald and Geoffrey Horne co-star. The stunning photography is by Jack Hildyard (4729754). * 4.30 **Watch Out - Chico Cuts**. Highlights from the recent wildlife series (S) (6583).

5.00 **Sunday Grandstand**. (Continued from BBC1) Desmond Lynham introduces more from Wimbledon, with reaction to the men's final and coverage of the ladies' doubles (177113).

8.00 **Later Presents** *Elvis Costello in Concert*. Jools Holland presents a live studio performance by singer-songwriter Elvis Costello, accompanied by the Attractions, the Brodsky Quartet and a chamber jazz septet (S) (7388).

9.00 **Last Friday Night's Armistice**. Topical (well, last Friday, anyway) satire from Armando Iannucci, Peter Bayham and David Schneider (S) (6823).

9.30 **BBC Design Awards Final Ceremony**. Janet Street-Porter presents the final of the BBC Design Awards from the Kelvingrove Art Gallery and Museum in Glasgow. The three categories are "product design", "graphic design" and "architecture and environment" (S) (225002).

10.10 **Today at Wimbledon**. Sue Barker introduces highlights from this afternoon's men's singles final, and reflects on the best moments of the tournament (S) (358434). *

11.10 **Ruby in Paradise** (Victor Nunez 1993 US). Gentle, well-observed drama starring Ashley Judd (sister of the country singing duo, the Judd Sisters) who leaves home in Tennessee and tries to kick start a new life among the Florida beach-bum set. Then *Weatherview* (573397). To 1.10am.

2.00 **The Learning Zone: Summer Nights: Perfect Pictures** (81717). 4.00 **Language**: Get by in Spanish and Bon Mot (98427). 5.00 **Business and Work: Germany Means Business** (13156). 5.30 **The Essential History of Europe** (67327). 6.00am **6.00am**.

REGIONS: **Wales**: 12.00pm *Welsh Lobby*. **Scot**: 12.00pm *Scottish Lobby*. **Ni**: 12.00pm *Going, Going, Gone*.

ITV/London

6.00 **GMTV** (74751). 8.00 **Disney Adventures** (5996668). 9.25 **The Adventures of Grady** (5938842). 9.50 **James Bond Jr** (5530393). 10.15 **Sunday Heroes** (7363303). 10.25 **Sunday Live** from Skipton, North Yorkshire (80390200).

12.10 **Link** (3076858). 12.30 **Crostalk** (35674). 1.00 **News and Weather** (76584945). 1.10 **The Agenda** (3220262). 2.00 **Capital Holidays** (2228).

2.30 **ITV's Great Berets** (John Wayne and Ray Kellogg 1968 US). Frightful piece of gung-ho flag-waving for the American side in the Vietnam War, which Wayne seems just-adviseably saw as a patriotic campaign (4729710).

5.00 **Upstairs, Downstairs**. Elizabeth Bellamy returns from abroad (R) (3755).

6.00 **Local News**, *Weather* (631620). * 6.25 **News and Weather** (620129). * 6.35 **Or Quinn, Medicine Woman**. Jane Seymour and her perfect hair continue to dispense medical care in 1880s Colorado. The coming of the railroad heralds changes (S) (3477615). *

7.30 **Faith in the Future**. "Another chance" (why thank you) to see the sequel to *Second Thoughts*, Lynda Bellingham stars again (R) (S) (823). *

8.00 **Wycliffe**. Cornish detective drama. Lane has big problems when the main murder suspect is found shot dead in his home (S) (14848). *

9.00 **The Knock**. Customs and Excise drama. The consignment of heroin arrives in Lyon (S) (1620).

10.00 **News and Weather** (693216). *

10.15 **Elton John - Tantrums and Tiaras**. A video diary of a year (1995 to be precise) in the life of Elton John, which includes the Brit Awards, the Oscars, a new album release and a massive 108-show world tour. *See Preview*, p28 (S) (2264620). *

11.30 **Lightning** (Simon Wincer 1988 Aus). Post-Gallipoli tale of Australian heroism and British stupidity in the First World War. Peter Phelps plays a recruit to an Aussie cavalry division trying to beat a Turkish held town in Palestine (S) (20976262).

1.40 **The Chart Show** (R) (S) (7302427). 2.40 **ITV's Tex Adkins** (Ferdinando Baldi 1966 US). Vengeance and hard eye-contact in this early pasta western about a sheriff (Franco Nero) who kills the man he suspected killed his father, only to find that the murderer is his half-brother's dad. Or something like that (464175).

4.20 **Night Shift** (R) (S) (30534682). 4.35 **Night Shift** (R) (S) (2231717). 5.30 **News** (95663). To 6.00am.

Channel 4

6.20 **Trans World Sport** (R) (9366858). 7.15 **Madeline** (4901842). 7.40 **The Real Life Adventures of Professor Thompson** (S) (9480533). 8.10 **Droopy, Master Detective** (2055151). 8.30 **Two Stupid Dogs** (610907). 8.55 **Silver Mice from Mars** (S) (6111842). 9.20 **Saved by the Bell** (R) (6937113). * 9.45 **Castillo and Dinosaur** (S) (813945). 10.15 **Sister Sister** (S) (5710465). 10.40 **Mission Impossible** (R) (729945). 11.40 **The Waltons** (R) (2414568). * 12.40 **Dallas** (King Vidor 1937 US). Loud and uncouth Barbara Stanwyck marnes high-society John Boles and can't stand the peace - sacrificing all for the daughter she loves. Famous, tear-jerking melodrama featuring Stanwyck's best performance (3148926). *

2.40 **Cocktail**. Animation (5086259). 2.50 **Flaming Road** (Michael Curtiz 1949 US). Joan Crawford, reunited with the team behind *Mildred Pierce*, plays a showgirl who's framed by the campy sheriff of a small Florida town, Sydney Greenstreet (26071113). *

4.30 **Love and Marriage**. Six couples prepare for wedded bliss. Joanne Lumley tells all (R) (S) (736). *

5.00 **The Last Bejewellers**. Series of travelogues written and fronted by John Bejeweler, and only fairly recently unearthed. First stop, Marborough, scene of his hated schooldays (R) (8950823). *

5.35 **Holykake** (R) (S) (701552). * 6.05 **Babylon 5** (S21716). * 7.00 **Tour De France**. Time trials between Bourg Saint Maurice and Val d'Isere (2026). *

7.30 **Kingdom of the Crabs**. Nonsuch, an island close to Bermuda, where crabs call the shots (S) (465). *

8.00 **Encounters: The Plant Files**. Following US government special agents investigating the illegal trade in rare plants (S) (90261). *

9.00 **The Final Passage**. See *Preview*, p28 (38840620). *

10.35 **House Party 2** (George Jackson and Doug McHenry 1991 US). Sequel to the hip-hop comedy and surprise hit. *Rappers Kill*? Play - Christopher Reid and Christopher Martin - go to college (S) (73635/387). *

12.20 **Days and Nights in the Forest** (Satyajit Ray 1969 US). Social comedy about four young men driving together in the country which hides a tragedy about Imperialism's warping of the Indian psyche. A classic (74303865).

2.30 **The Island of the Blessed** (Siddhanta Das) drama about a woman imprisoned for murdering her daughter (R) (7847224). To 3.15am.

ITV/Regions

ANGLO As London except 2.00pm *The Royal Show* (9228). 2.30 **Cartoons** (7845859). 2.45 **News** from the River Kwai (533397). 3.15 **Return from the River Kwai** (693781). 1.25am *Cyber Cat (278292). 1.55am **Best of British Motor Sport** (739265). 2.30am *TV Sport Classics* (63837392). 4.25am **Music Box Profile** (30583953). 4.40-5.30am *Crime Hour* (7899156).*

THE TESS FURKES As London except 12.30pm *Newsweek* (929216). 2.00 **Murder**. She *Wrote* (7827202). 2.25 **Flame** (7827203). 3.00 **Police** (7827204). 3.30 **Police** (7827205). 4.30 **Police** from the River Kwai (693782). 1.25am *Cyber Cat (278292). 1.55am **Best of British Motor Sport** (739265). 2.30am *Crime Hour* (7899157).*

CENTRAL As London except 2.00pm *The Jury* (2261). 2.30pm *The Long Short* (53537620). 4.50 **Four Weddings and a Funeral** (2920811). 5.00 **Heart of the Country** (6936295). 5.30 **Police** (7827206). 6.00 **Police** (7827207). 6.30 **Police** (7827208). 7.00 **Police** (7827209). 7.30 **Police** (7827210). 8.00 **Police** (7827211). 8.30 **Police** (7827212). 9.00 **Police** (7827213). 9.30 **Police** (7827214). 10.00 **Police** (7827215). 10.30 **Police** (7827216). 11.00 **Police** (7827217). 11.30 **Police** (7827218). 12.00 **Police** (7827219). 12.30 **Police** (7827220). 1.00 **Police** (7827221). 1.30 **Police** (7827222). 1.55 **Police** (7827223). 2.00 **Police** (7827224). 2.30 **Police** (7827225). 3.00 **Police** (7827226). 3.30 **Police** (7827227). 4.00 **Police** (7827228). 4.30 **Police** (7827229). 5.00 **Police** (7827230). 5.30 **Police** (7827231). 6.00 **Police** (7827232). 6.30 **Police** (7827233). 7.00 **Police** (7827234). 7.30 **Police** (7827235). 8.00 **Police** (7827236). 8.30 **Police** (7827237). 9.00 **Police** (7827238). 9.30 **Police** (7827239). 10.00 **Police** (7827240). 10.30 **Police** (7827241). 11.00 **Police** (7827242). 11.30 **Police** (7827243). 12.00 **Police** (7827244). 12.30 **Police** (7827245). 1.00 **Police** (7827246). 1.30 **Police** (7827247). 1.55 **Police** (7827248). 2.00 **Police** (7827249). 2.30 **Police** (7827250). 3.00 **Police** (7827251). 3.30 **Police** (7827252). 4

the saturday story

Has Diana been diddled?

By Glenda Cooper

If it was the wedding of the decade, it's the Divorce of the century. The nation breathed a sigh of relief on Thursday night, hoping we would now be spared the everlasting saga of Charles and Camilla, Diana and Hewitt, Charles and Jonathan Dimbleby, Diana and Martin Bush.

According to reports, the Princess of Wales has got an "extremely generous" offer of between £15m and £20m in a lump sum, £500,000 a year living expenses, her apartment in Kensington Palace, retention of the title Her Royal Highness and complete access to the children. It's not bad for a former nursery school assistant with not a single O-level and a former addiction to frilly collars.

Good – but not that good. The Princess may have got 10 times the amount won by her former sister-in-law, the Duchess of York, but it's still peanuts compared to the divorces of the super-rich.

As the Princess returns to counting her Catherine Walker dresses, she could ponder the fact that if she'd married Steven Spielberg, Adnan Khashoggi or the Aga Khan, she could have really moved into the Ex-Wives Club.

The problem for the princess is that, having married into the British Royal Family, she has to be divorced in the British courts, which have not been famed for their generosity when it comes to doling out the doh to wives of multi-millionaires.

Consider the fate of poor Katica Dart, whose bid to up her divorce settlement was quashed this week by three judges, including Lord Justice Butler-Sloss. Married for 16 years to the US hunger-boy tycoon Robert Dart, she could have been awarded up to £200m of her husband's £900m fortune had she been divorced in the US. Unfortunately, for the former Mrs Dart, she and her husband moved to London in 1993. Shortly after, Mr Dart renounced his US citizenship and divorced Katica over here.

Mrs Dart claimed her lifestyle required an "absolute minimum of many, many, many tens of millions". The judges thought £8.8m and £5,000



The Princess may have got 10 times the amount won by the Duchess of York, but it's still peanuts compared to the divorces of the super-rich such as the Spielberg, the Khashoggi and the Aga Khan

maintenance was enough and ordered her to pay the £1.5m legal costs. Outside court, her solicitor Margaret Bennett said soberly: "This will mean a major cut in her lifestyle. The private jet will have to go."

A leading family barrister, Jeremy Roseblatt, explained: "The English courts are different – they look at need rather than entitlement. Everyone assumes they should get half their husband's assets but the court doesn't necessarily think so when it comes to the super-rich. With Katica Dart or Maya Flick, the judge thought their needs were met at £10m."

"What Bob Dart did is known as forum shopping – shopping around to find the best place to have your case heard. He was resident in America but moved over here. She obviously thinks he moved deliberately. But if the English legal system has decided something, the American legal system is not going to query it."

England is also the birthplace of the so-called "millionaire's defence". In this country, a very rich man does not have to disclose his total wealth. Judges will assess the family needs and may allow the wife an appropriate sum for life while the husband's holdings remain

untroubled. The man who originated this, Baron Thynne-Bornemisza, claimed to be worth £400m. His wife said his fortune was nearer £1.200m.

Nigel Evans, editor of *Majesty* magazine, says the princess was fortunate to settle out of court: "If she'd gone to court, she wouldn't have got anything like this sort of amount because of the attitudes of the British courts. She was very aware of this and played her hand well."

Nevertheless, perhaps the Princess of Wales has sold herself too cheaply. Two years ago, the Prince's sides let it become known that Diana's bill for "grooming" was costing Charles £3,000 per week or £160,000 a year. Add to that £12,000 on the gym and £8,000 on therapy and the figures mount up.

But her demands are pitiful when you compare them to those of Maya Flick, who was married to Friedrich Flick of the Mercedes car dynasty. Mrs Flick, a real pro, is currently appealing against her £9m divorce settlement (her husband is worth an estimated £200m) on the grounds that it was not enough to make ends meet.

Mr Justice Thorpe, the Fam-

ily Division judge who ordered the settlement, was sympathetic toward her. He had said it was wrong to decide the case on the basis that "if the wife could not manage at a rate of £250,000 yearly, she ought to be able to do so". Even he, however, was taken slightly aback at some of Mrs Flick's necessities – £4,000 a year to keep a Labrador dog,

the late Jacqueline Onassis and you get the picture).

"I think she probably spends about the same amount as them. She spends an awful lot on alternative medicine where these other women might spend it on golf clubs or riding societies," added Ms Lewis. "I think there is a certain level where money loses its importance."

British courts are not famed for their generosity toward millionaires' wives

£5,000 for knick-knacks in the home, £12,000 for phone bills, £5,000 for "stocking a drinks tray for casual visitors" and £50,000 for family holidays – a list which puts Diana's office expenses in the shade.

"The Princess of Wales could live more cheaply, of course she could," says Ewa Lewis, social editor of *Woman*. "The point is she doesn't have to, so why should she?"

"I think you've got to forget about comparing her to other royals and compare her to other fifth-gear women. (Fifth gear-women are apparently married to multi-millionaires. Think Ivana Trump,

tance. It doesn't matter what you're spending, it's irrelevant. You know what they say – if you have to ask the price, you can't afford it. The Princess will buy a pair of designer shoes for £160 where we would say spend £40; she'll just say 'I want them'. Money is no object."

The problem is that whatever Prince Charles is worth, he is unlikely to be as rich as some of the other husbands whose fifth-gear women have been able to pick up. His income from the Duchy of Cornwall is around £4m before tax and expenses, and he is said to have to go cap in hand to the Duchy's bankers

to take out a loan to finance his wife's settlement.

The Windsors' private wealth is still unclear. There is suggestion that the Prince has separate investments and bank deposits to the capital value of £40m, although his advisers dispute this.

"We really still don't know what the Royal Family's wealth is," said Nigel Evans. "The Windsors' wealth is the last secret of the Royal Family."

Whatever it is, the final figure is unlikely to match the Arab tycoon Adnan Khashoggi's £5bn worth. His wife Soraya cashed in by claiming a £1.5bn slice back in 1982. The Begum Princess Salimah Aga Khan, former model Sally Croker Poole, won an estimated £30m from her husband and then went on to sell her jewellery collection for £17m – a sale which her former husband, the Aga Khan, failed to block.

The Princess should also consider that the pluses of the Royal Family (people currying, free accommodation and security measures) also contain drawbacks. Ivana Trump's settlement from Donald was a relatively modest £6m with a £500,000 villa and £325,000 a year for life. How-

ever, she has made a fortune from her novels and her home-shopping business – something that Diana could not hope to emulate.

"The Duchess of York has gone down the money-making route – modelling, chat shows. I can't see Princess Diana going that way," said Ewa Lewis. "You can't have the Princess of Wales modelling for a little-known designer or the mother of the future king walking down the catwalk in God knows what. She has to keep a certain dignity."

Ms Lewis says the princess has never shown signs of wanting to earn money – "it would be out of character". So, if Diana wanted to gain a really big divorce settlement, she should have taken up with a showbiz business star. Hollywood is the best place to go to for serious alimony.

Figures are speculative, but Kevin Costner's wife, Cindy, who was married a similar length of time as Diana, has been given \$80m. Sylvester Stallone has paid out \$30m to his first two wives and Clint Eastwood gave \$40m to his long-time companion Sondra Locke.

Until May, the real winner in showbiz alimony lottery however was Amy Irving, Steven

Spielberg's wife, who walked off with \$100m in 1988 after a four-year marriage. However, Neil Diamond has surpassed that, saying he had given his ex-wife Marcia £100m. "She deserves half my fortune," he said. "I wish her all the happiness \$150m can bring." No doubt Prince Charles is silently uttering the same sentiments.

Jeremy Roseblatt says the princess's settlement should not be undervalued: "If she'd been an ordinary 35-year-old woman, she'd have been expected to go out and get a job, she would have been seen as having a chance to start again, and would have maybe been given money for the children." As it is, her millions will give her independence to start up her own charitable foundation (as Nigel Evans suggests) and keep up with the other fifth-gear women.

Happy single, the princess can date again, but she should take care if she wants to tie the knot again. It's not only men who are paying out high amounts to former spouses.

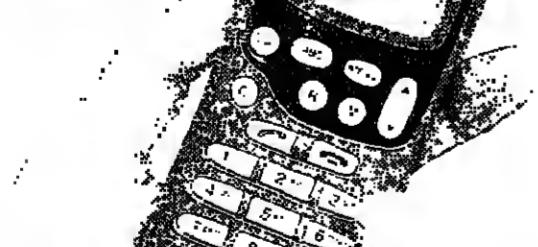
Larry Fortensky, nicknamed Elizabeth Taylor's "Cinderella", dismissed the £5,000-a-month "maintenance" she offered as "minuscule", saying: "Liz has to support me in the manner to which I have become accustomed". In her tempestuous 1988 divorce from one-time rock star Peter Holm, Joan Collins faced a bill of \$80,000-a-week living expenses from him, and Jane Seymour, the British actress, was ordered to pay her ex-husband David Flynn £2.5m and £7,000 a month in 1992.

But it is Roseanne Barr, the American comedienne who deserves the dollars that her ex-husband Tom Arnold got out of her as "millions, millions, millions, millions, millions and millions, the pig". Barr may have several regrets about the marriage but the largest must be the fact she failed to sign a pre-nuptial agreement which would have safeguarded her £66m fortune. Under California law, Mr Arnold may have got up to £33m.

So Diana, don't undo all your hard work. If you marry again, make sure he's rich, stay in England and for goodness sake make sure you sign a pre-nup.

New digital Nokia. 100 hours of power!

NOKIA
NEW GSM MODEL 1610.
♦ Up to 100 hrs standby time
♦ Up to 3.5 hrs talk-time
♦ 45 name/number memory stored on SIM
♦ Fast recharge 55 mins
♦ 5 selectable ring tones
♦ Weight 250g



Whitelock
Cellphone
EXCELLENCE

FREE CALLS 50 MINUTES
PER MONTH
IN JULY/AUGUST & SEPTEMBER

• NEW GENERATION DIGITAL NOKIA - replaces the proven 2010 model
• ONE SECOND BILLING - you only pay for the airtime you use
• MORE POWER - up to 100 hours standby-time, up to 3.5 hours talk-time
• BEST COVERAGE - with digital cell clarity and security
• FREE ACCESSORIES - in-car adaptor and leather case together worth over £55

LIMITED OFFER
£4.99
INC. VAT

GUARANTEED PEACE OF MIND
Your phone is covered by our 12 days no quibble money back guarantee

Cellphones

ORDER NOW WITH YOUR PAYMENT DETAILS FOR FREE DELIVERY IN 4 WORKING DAYS

FREPHONE 0500 000 888
ORDERING HOTLINE WEEKDAYS 8AM TO 9PM WEEKENDS 8AM TO 6PM

PLEASE HAVE YOUR PAYMENT DETAILS FOR FREE DELIVERY WHEN YOU CALL AND QUOTE REF. USA
SOMEONE MAY NOT BE ABLE TO ACCEPT SWITCH CARD
Other subject to status and a standard airtime contract for each above with Cellphones Direct Ltd, 121 Lower Richmond Road, Richmond, Surrey, TW9 4LN
Full written details and terms and conditions of the offer are available on request. Copyright Registered No. 2995123

Jo Brand's week

Nick Hornby is flavour of the month and his new book, *High Fidelity*, seems to be doing well. I read *Fever Pitch* and enjoyed it a lot, even though I wasn't one of the women for whom the revelations of football as an acceptable, even fashionable obsession came with the reading of that tome. I knew nothing about *High Fidelity* until a friend of mine and I, in a book shop the other day, chanced upon it and thought perhaps it should be read. The girl behind the counter, who was probably late teens or early twenties, told us two late thirties old bats that it was "brilliant", adding that she had learnt an unbelievable amount about how her boyfriend ticked. My friend asked if she was still with this bloke. "Oh no," she replied. So if your relationship's a big dodgy, best leave this book on the shelf for a hit.

Occasionally, little snippets of information from around the world in the news demonstrate that although we are now supposed to be a global village, we have a long way to go before our experience is pretty much the same. It seems a will, believed to be responsible for the killing of at least 18 children, has been shot dead in northern India. Myths have arisen about this wolf and it has been described by some villagers as a man-like beast who drove a van, looked like a pig and could fly. I have seen many such creatures driving very badly on the motorways of Britain.

Only difference, judging by the way they overtakes, is they think they can fly.

Andrew Lloyd Webber is very worried about the future of British musicals and has said that things look "parlous". When he's not taking tips from John Major on vocabulary, Sir Andrew is sitting in his counting house and gleefully counting his vast fortune. The future doesn't look parlous for him. I wouldn't have thought. However, if musicals, many of which are very popular, are going under, what hope is there for all the theatre that doesn't contain tunes you can hum? I'm sure if the Government really had its way, the only productions on offer in our theatres would be the big money-makers like *Cats*, *Les Misérables* and anything with Elaine Paige in it. Not exactly a broad spectrum, and the death knell of anything we could hum?

I'm sometimes the little snapshots of people's lives, rather than the big impact they make on politics, which give you the best insights into the character and idiosyncrasies of powerful people. For example, Benjamin Netanyahu has just had a bit of domestic involving his children's nanny, who appears to have been unceremoniously dumped on the street following an altercation with



Mrs Netanyahu over some burnt soup. The nanny says that Mr N is unstable and prone to violent outbursts. Who is one to believe?

The third, ex-air hostess wife of a right-wing politician whose extreme views means he looks set to destroy the peace process in Israel, or a 21-year-old, employed for six months by the family with no problems. Difficult one. Perhaps a quick look across the Atlantic to compare and contrast with America's First Lady ... enough said.



Nice to see Cliff Richard keeping the spirits up at Wimbledon with a selection of his finest hits performed *a cappella*. As Sir Cliff commented himself, the British have an ability to take something horrible and turn it into something nice, as opposed to the Wimbledon experience itself which seems to work the other way round completely.

A gentle and rather old-fashioned sport appears to have been turned into an expensive, yet somehow cheap day out for people who are good at squalling. The only interesting players are the ones who have tantrums, but sadly they are also the feeblest so they never seem to get very far. As usual, everyone had a collective orgasm when they thought a British player would get across the court without falling over. Bring back Euro 96.

In these times when image means everything and one discovers facts like most people who voted for Ronald Reagan did so not because they agreed with his policies but because he looked like a nice bloke, it is so important to strike just the right note image-wise, which may have been the reason for Tony Blair in don a cardigan to symbolise all that is comf about the Labour Party. I'm in Cardiff at the moment and was asked this week to have my photo taken with the prospective candidate for Cardiff North Labour Party, the only Tory-held seat within a huge ring of burning cottages. I was in the middle of a long day and I looked knackered and scruffy as they wheeled the photographer on. My suggestion that it might do more good for Labour, if in this state, I had my photo taken with the tiny candidate, was ignored. Oh well, I did offer.

the commentators

Gay capital of Europe

Forget Berlin and Paris, London is streets ahead. And it's all down to the English psyche, says Nick Walker

Today, 250,000 people are expected to march through London and then assemble on Clapham Common to celebrate the 25th Gay Pride, or to give it its full title: Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Some Friends, the Occasional Mum and Dad, John's Straight Flatmate, Susan, and Anyone Else who Comes Along for the Fun Fair and Free Music, Pride '96.

London is the gay capital of Europe. Similar celebrations to London Pride elsewhere in Europe rank school discos by comparison. Over the past eight years, London has been transformed. Soho is now a gay village. Just as New York has Christopher Street and San Francisco has Castro, London has Old Compton Street - Comptons, The Edge, The Village, The Iron Bar, The Yard, Bar Code, The Old Compton Street Cafe, Balans, A hairdressers. A cab company. And all this within a street or two. Homosexuality is embazoned across Soho in chrome and neon.

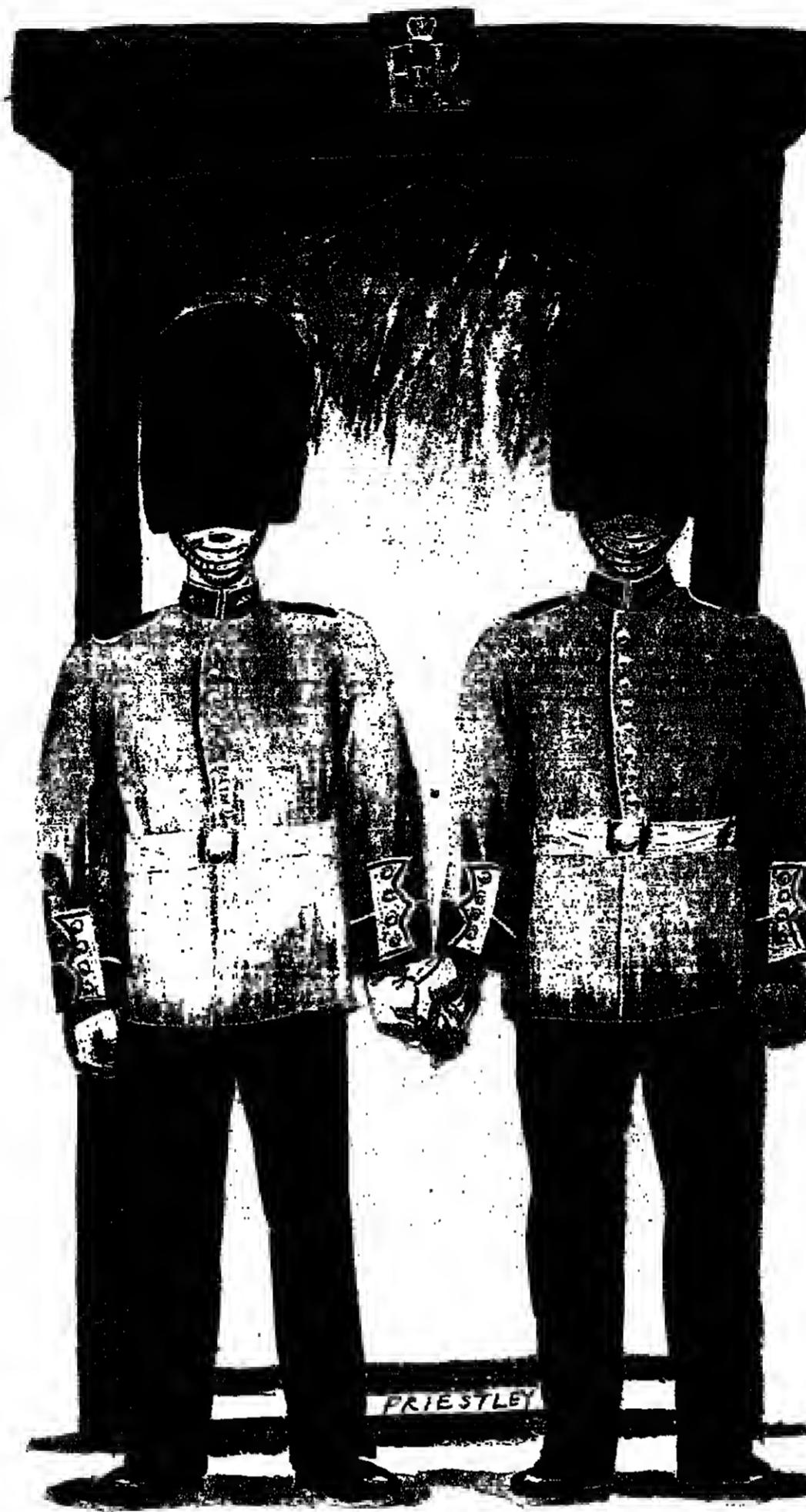
Paris, Berlin, Madrid, Amsterdam have all got a lot going for them, sure, but there is something in the English psyche that is peculiarly homosexual, something that would inspire a friend of mine to comment that the French, by comparison, just don't, well, you know, gay very well.

I was brought up in Scotland. By the age of 10, I had learnt a simple playground equation - English equalled posh equalled gay. All three were to be avoided as one. To this day, I have relatives who still refer to effete Scotsmen as English-Scotsmen. Ask anyone north of the border, and you will be told - the English are a bunch of farts.

Take Hugh Grant: a man whose red-haired heterosexuality can be doubted by few. But 10 minutes in the playground of my youth, glottal stops beautifully stoppered, it would take one foppish flick of that fringe, and his number would be up - complete poof. You just know Grant runs like a girl, doesn't play football and spent his playground days learning to skip.

John Major - a man who actively tries to personify an England of warm afternoons and warm beer - doesn't so much bang the Commons dispatch box with clenched masculine fist as flop down a limp-wristed slamp. You half expect him to purse his lips and the words "Ooooh, matron!" to issue forth. All the notions that imperial England gave to the world - wit and decadence, literary leanings and intelligence. England has always been perceived as being this way, and that way. What else do you get from a public school education? You learn how to "big".

England never really had a choice. What do you expect from a country whose figurehead is a Queen? The role of hostess to the continent's gay capital was scribbled on Britannia's Happy Gay Pride.



DAVID AARONOVITCH

Drunk on history

This week, one of my more adventurous colleagues, as reported in this paper, volunteered to drink genuine ancient Egyptian beer, as sunk by Pharaoh himself. Archaeologists (as they are called) had discovered and analysed the sediment at the bottom of a couple of long-buried jugs, linked this sludge with a few grains of emmer wheat found on a tomb floor - and some enterprising archaeobrewers (as they are not called) had done the rest. The bottles were retailing at 50 quid a throw.

The process of beer-making could be seen on several extant wall-paintings and deduced from hieroglyphics, apparently. According to one of the brewers, the ancient Egyptians had had several different types of beers - beers, he explained, "for high days, feast days, one for toothache and one injected as an enema if you had putes".

This worried me. As a visitor to the temples of Thebes and the Valley of the Kings, I have seen representations of feasts and holidays. But I must have missed the panels depicting Thutmose IV being administered a beer enema. And what would the hieroglyphs for such an activity consist of?

"I see what you're saying. Professor, the three vertical lines represent a fountain, or flow." "Correct, Doctor! And the rounded W clearly suggests a pair of slightly parted buttocks. I think we can deduce."

And do we know that the ancient Nile-dwellers had putes because they have been discovered (albeit in rather desecrated form) under the bandages of mummies? Or is there a papyrus in the Cairo Museum of Antiquities telling us that Amenophis I would have given the Nubians a damn good smacking if it had not been for his apalling putes?

I do not mean to impugn the value of the research involved - although one suspects that, as with opinion polling, there is a distinct moment when science gives way to artistic licence. Certainly this is true in the fashionable business of facial reconstruction. Recently, the Jorvik Viking Centre in York, where a whole Norse village has become a major attraction, spent large sums on having the faces of several 10th century ravers and pillagers constructed from skull found in the area. Tucked away, however, in an article about this process was the revelation that "Facial



Image Technique cannot accurately reproduce ears, nose, lips, or, of course, skin tones". Which doesn't really leave very much.

Jorvik also pioneered another form of reliving the past - smelling it. Having discovered and put on display a Viking latrine (complete with 1,000-year-old stools), Jorvik is said to have employed a Mr Dale of Dale Air Products to recreate the authentic odour of the place. This presumably had to be done by examining the diet of Ragnar the Raddled et al, and deducing what would have happened at these food-stuffs made their peristaltic way from one orifice to another, and beyond. Mr Dale has also recreated a "Roman soldier's armpit", as well as a mixture of horse, sweat and bourbon for the Wild West part of Disneyland Paris.

There is a distinct moment when science gives way to artistic licence

But to what purpose is this mania for authenticity? It cannot help us in any way to understand the past. Real history is about the conditions of labourers, the construction of nations, of wealth amassed and power lost, of motions passed in legislatures, not latrines.

Of what use is it to us to "know" what a Dark Ages dung heap smelled like, or to be able to purchase the beverage that made Akhenaten the success he was? After all, in a any real sense, we cannot experience these things as they were once experienced, even if we reproduce them faithfully. You would have to live your life smeared in beaver fat, wear a partly cured elk pelt and possess a mouth full of blackened abscessed stumps, before really being able to "contextualise" the aroma of a Jorvik latrine. If your eyes were covered in kohl, your hair in henna, your mouth still watering from a meal of dates, the room reeking of myrrh, then perhaps you might be able to taste the Amarna beer as Pharaoh did. All else is equivalent to those cutsey catalogues full of Celtic trivets and plaster cherubs - the tamed past substituting for the threatening present.

Fuelled by drugs and hypocrisy

Almost everyone is on something that would get an Olympic athlete banned, says Charles Arthur

Even though it's not in the *Radio Times* schedule for the Olympics, we know that there is one event that is guaranteed plenty of TV exposure: the naming of the first athlete to be sent home after testing positive for drugs - or, more accurately, "banned substances".

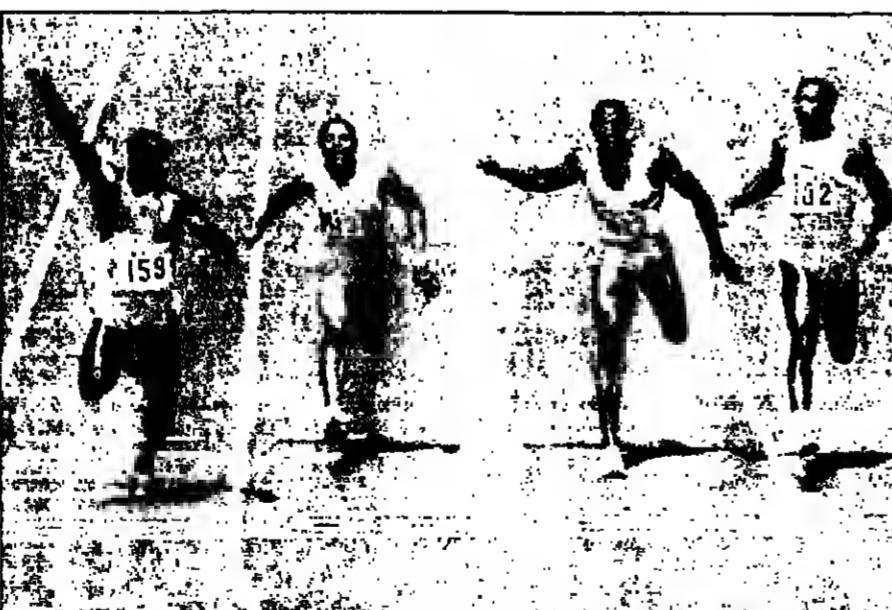
Those athletes who do test positive - such as Andrew Davies and Andrew Sexton, the Welsh weightlifters sent home from Barcelona in 1992 - can expect to return home to a hall of abuse. "Parish of Sport", said the then chairman of the Sports Council for Wales, "horrifying", said the then Minister for Sport, Robert Keeble.

When (and it almost certainly is when) it happens this time, let us hope that none of the strong language comes from any of the 14 male MPs and lords who, we hear, have been taking artificial testosterone shots in order, as one prescribing doctor, Malcolm Carruthers, puts it, "to rev the engine and take the handbrake off". Apparently, our rulers had been finding the pressures of maintaining their seats and the long hours at the House too tiring, and discovered that they needed something extra to keep them going.

And we can be sure, can't we, that no female representative taking hormone-replacement therapy (HRT) (or artificially fed, if the effects of aging will be first to the media barbados to condemn somebody for taking an artificial performance enhancer).

But - on the principle that it should be those without sin who cast the first stone - who is really in a position to lob the first chunk of abuse? Although we choose largely to ignore it, the fact that Olympic (or aspiring) athletes stand apart from the rest of society not only for their abilities, The rest of us now comprise a society that depends so deeply on drugs to give us just that little bit extra to get us through the day that perhaps not a single one of us could reasonably expect to make the grade if we, like those athletes, were subjected to random urine testing.

Leave aside testosterone and HRT: how many people do you know who suffer from asthma and have to use an inhaler regularly? Or who take hay-fever tablets or remedies so that they can work or drive or go for a walk without their eyes and nose screaming? Sorry, that



The drugged Ben Johnson wins at the 1988 Olympics, only to be disqualified

everyday Western culture. Now there's barely a single niche in our lives that they haven't touched. In May, German medical students were revealed to have found a means of overcoming the stress of exams: a beta-blocker (which steadies the heart rhythms) and a Valium before the test.

If the drug is available, we'll find a way to use it. Stimulants to cope with the pressures of down-sized offices, narcotics to escape the pressures of city life, antidepressants to let us fit in where otherwise we'd be kicking and punching people off the pavement. Let's accept it, despite what Nancy Reagan might have hoped for, we all long ago just said "yes".

Not only that, we are actively searching for new ways to get a leg up here and there. Maybe you haven't heard about the "memory pill"? (Or maybe you have heard, but forgot?) A team of New York scientists this week announced that they are trying to pinpoint the proteins required in the brain to turn short-term memories into long-term ones. Known as CREB1 and 2, they could give us all splendid retention abilities - which might, who knows, halve the overall amount of pill-popping by German medical students, among others.

But where do all these advances, which take the rest of us forward into a world where we can manipulate our moods and our memory at will, leave athletes? Rather than being the cream of our society, they are left somewhere outside it. They are living in a world where they have to dodge the drugs that lie in wait for them at every turn, in all those remedies and pick-me-ups. It is as challenging as being a matador who evades a herd of raging bulls. One wrong move, and the testers will gore you.

Bearing that in mind, it's clear that the athletes who test positive don't deserve our scorn. They have already submitted to an existence which is wholly outside that which the rest of us can imagine. Nowadays, to be an Olympic athlete takes not just talent and training, but also the mental strength to live like an ascetic. The drugs-takers aren't outcasts, except from the strange world of athletics. They're not pariahs; they're just like all the rest of us. And we should welcome them back into the fold, not scorn them for leaving an artificial existence outside our own. Anything else is just hypocrisy.

MPs and lords, we hear, have been taking testosterone shots to "rev the engine and take the handbrake off"

some other antidepressant. Not for nothing was Valium so well known as "mother's little helper". Or are you one of the 2 million people on Prozac - now prescribed to many young mothers, who find the first five years of their children's lives exhausting. Or maybe you are on

lunch to seal that contract? Yes, that's on the IOC's list, too (which primly states: "Tests may be conducted for ethanol. The results may lead to sanctions"). You'll all have to go to the back of the queue of people lining up to be rude about so-called "disgraced" athletes.

Perhaps it's no accident that the International Olympic Committee (IOC) first introduced its list of "banned substances" in 1967, back when drugs were really starting to permeate into

How you can help the Brooke Hospital for Animals



You can too easily find half crippled, malnourished working animals in the East today. Every week we give free treatment to thousands of suffering horses and donkeys and save many more from years of cruel labour.

For £25 we can provide up to 5 days of life-saving hospital care. Just £2 will enable us to give an all-important preventive treatment. We know how to get the best value from every penny.

Please help. Send what you can by cheque or credit card to:

Richard Scarratt, Brooke Hospital for Animals, Dept. GID76, Broadmead House, 21 Panton Street, London SW1Y 4DR.

Or call us on 0171 930 0210.

I want to help care for sick horses and donkeys.

I enclose a gift of: £ _____

Or debit my Access/Visa Card No. _____

Expiry date: _____

By sending a cheque, please make payable to BROOKE HOSPITAL FOR ANIMALS. If possible enclose your name, address where you receive your magazine.

Name: Mr/Mrs/Ms/

Address: _____

Postcode: _____



They depend on us - we depend on you

THE INDEPENDENT • Saturday 6 July 1996

BUSINESS NEWS DESK: tel 0171-293 2636 fax 0171-293 2098

Jobs surge causes Wall St pandemonium

DAVID USBORNE
New York
and DIANE COYLE

There was pandemonium on Wall Street yesterday when share and bond prices plummeted after figures showing a surge in new jobs took US unemployment to a six-year low last month. Average hourly earnings jumped by 9 cents, the biggest monthly increase on record.

The latest evidence that the US economy is building up a

strong head of steam boosted President Bill Clinton's re-election campaign, but in the financial markets it raised the spectre of inflation. It means the Federal Reserve is almost certain to increase interest rates before the summer is out – some economists reckon before the next scheduled policy meeting on 30 August.

The White House wasted no time in making political hay, seizing on the news as evidence that its economic policies were work-

ing. In a hastily arranged appearance before television cameras, President Bill Clinton hailed the falling unemployment figures.

"We have the most solid American economy in a generation. And it's good news when Americans can have high job growth, strong investment and low inflation," he declared.

The Dow Jones share price index, more than 117 points lower at lunchtime, closed 115 down at 5,588.14. Bond yields shot up to

7.19 per cent, their highest level for more than a year. The shock came only two days after the Fed's policy-making Open Market Committee opted to leave US interest rates unchanged.

The upturn sent shares in London lower too, with the FTSE 100 index closing more than 17 points lower at 3,743.

"This has spooked the markets," said Brian Fahribi at the investment bank Paribas in New York, speaking above the uproar on the trading floor.

David Shulman, chief economist at Salomon Brothers, was among those forecasting a significant correction in share prices. "Stocks are going to go down. My guess is that a 5 per cent dip is coming out of this right now."

In his statement, President Clinton looking to his race for re-election against Republican candidate Bob Dole, sought to extract the greatest political advantage from the data. Claiming that his administration had

created 10 million new American jobs, he said: "We promised to take these economic challenges head-on. Our critics said it wouldn't work. Today's news once again proved them wrong."

Many traders may have been in lazy mood after the Independence Day holiday on Thursday, when the American markets were closed. They were jolted awake, however, when the industrial average lost 86 points in the first 30 minutes of yesterday's half-day trading, triggering the

New York Stock Exchange's

curbs on automatic trading.

Some on Wall Street cau-

tioned against overreaction,

however. Maria Fiorini

Ramirez, president of the in-

vestment firm of the same

name, said: "I think the econo-

my is in a better balance than the

market is pricing itself to."

The culprit behind the nose-

down in US shares was a far

bigger-than-expected increase in

employment – the third such

surprise this year. The number

of people employed on non-

farm payrolls rose by 239,000 to

119.5 million. And April's and

May's increases were revised up.

Manufacturing employment

was down 7,000 during the

month, but surged by 233,000 in

services. The growth in jobs

took the unemployment rate

down to 5.3 per cent, lowest

since June 1990. "Unemploy-

ment could drop to 5 per cent

by the end of the year," J P

Morgan said.

Comment, page 19

Lyonnais accuses Sumitomo chiefs in copper scandal

NIC CICUTTI

Credit Lyonnais Rouse, the broking arm of the French state-owned bank, yesterday said that copper deals it entered into with Sumitomo Corporation were always fully authorised by senior officials inside the Japanese firm.

The French firm's statement yesterday made it the fourth company to turn the spotlight of the inquiry for the £1.2bn losses incurred by Sumitomo firmly on the Japanese firm itself.

Merrill Lynch, the giant US securities firm, Winchester Commodities of the UK and Global Minerals and Metals of New York have all said Mr Hamanaka was not acting alone but had the backing of his company.

Roy Leighton, chairman of Credit Lyonnais Rouse, said: "[We] are satisfied that all credit lines and contractual documentation were properly processed and authorised by officials designated by Sumitomo to have such powers.

"Such authorities were not exclusively in the hands of Mr Hamanaka. Credit Lyonnais Rouse has consistently provided the London Metal Exchange and regulators with timely reports on client positions and other matters in accordance with their requests."

Mr Leighton indicated yesterday that Sumitomo had provided his firm with additional proof that those signing relevant documents on its behalf were properly authorised to do so.

It is understood that the names of those who approved Mr Hamanaka's trades, or who may have acted independently of him, have already been passed on to UK regulators, including the Securities and Futures Authority and the Securities and Investments Board.

All credit lines extended to Sumitomo were approved by Credit Lyonnais credit committees in London and Paris and followed internal procedures based on SFA requirements.

Mr Leighton's comments renewed speculation, which initially surfaced soon after the extent of Sumitomo's losses were revealed, of the extent to which executives within the firm knew and approved of the rogue trader Yasuo Hamanaka's activities.

Sumitomo has repeatedly claimed that while some of his book was known, Mr Hamanaka lost the bulk of his money on separate unauthorised activity, which he kept track of in a secret under-the-counter book.

However, Sumitomo's position was also rebutted yesterday by Ashley Levett and Charles Vincent, two Winchester Com-

modities traders, who dealt with the Japanese firm.

The two dealers, who retired from the businesses in the past few months and now live in Monaco, claimed in separate interviews yesterday that key trades they carried out were approved at Sumitomo board level. This included one of the biggest deals entered into by Sumitomo in 1993, codenamed Radr, involving the purchase of a million tonnes of copper over two years, worth up to £1.9bn.

Meanwhile, one influential copper trader yesterday claimed that Sumitomo still has a long position in copper totalling 1.5m tonnes and disposing of it could depress prices down to £1,500 a tonne over the next 18 months.

Herbert Black, a Canadian dealer who co-owns American Iron & Metal, said the rate at which it was being disposed of should be speeded up. "I think they are holding at least a million and a half tonnes, and I think the Chinese are long an additional quarter of a million tonnes."

Mr Black said: "There should not be a backwardation at this time. I think the LME is opening the door to future lawsuits because Sumitomo has already acknowledged that they had fraudulent positions."

Comment, page 19



Post Office blames rise in postage on Treasury

of the unprecedented cash demands put on the Post Office by the Government. We much preferred to have maintained our price freeze for some time to come," he added.

He was speaking as the Post Office unveiled a fall in pre-tax profits for last year from £472m to £422m despite continuing a commercial point of view.

"It is necessary solely because

from its Parcelforce business.

The decline was mainly due to a drop in Royal Mail profits from £449m to £411m as it felt the effects of increasing competition from electronic communications, couriers and overseas postal operators.

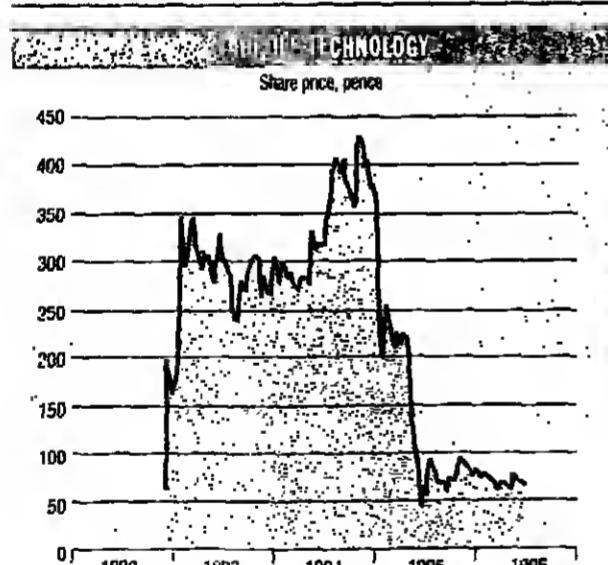
Sir Michael also ruled out privatising of the Post Office this decade because of the likelihood that the Conservatives

would be out of office or surviving on too slender a majority to risk reviving the idea of selling the business off.

The increase in the cost of a first class stamp to 26p and second class postage to 20p will bring in £150m in a full year, helping the Post Office meet the more demanding cash targets set by the Treasury.

The Post Office is preparing for the imposition of tougher Government performance targets which will require it to cut Royal Mail costs by about £500m over the next three years.

Comment, page 19



Grey quits Tadpole with £110,000 pay-off

MAGNUS GRIMOND

George Grey, the founder of troubled notebook computer maker Tadpole Technology, resigned yesterday as chief executive with a pay-off expected to be around £110,000. His departure comes just over a year after the ousting of Geoff Burr, head of Tadpole's US operations, who received £116,000 to ease his search for a new occupation.

Mr Grey has been replaced by the 50-year-old Bernard Hulme, veteran of British computer maker ICL and most recently in charge of the international busi-

ness of California-based Santa Cruz Operations, a leader in the US software market for the UNIX operating system.

News of the management changes pleased the stock market, which fell out of love with Tadpole after a series of profit warnings and mounting losses caused the share price to plunge last year. Tadpole's shares rose 3p to 61p yesterday, still some way off the 440p they hit in November 1994.

Mr Grey, who founded the company in 1984 and still owns around 2.9 per cent of the shares, came under pressure to resign last year after losses

mounted and the Stock Exchange ordered an investigation into dealings in the shares. He was paid £114,000, including his pension in 1995-96. His pay-off will be linked to his salary, although he will also receive around nine months' pay for the current year.

He was seen as the wrong man to carry the company forward, according to Robert Booth, finance director. "Tadpole has always been regarded as an amazing company. We have had a number of industry firsts for our technology, but we never had the sales and marketing expertise to market the

products." There had been no pressure from institutional shareholders. "We came to our own conclusion. It has been obvious for some time that our problems lay in the marketing area."

Recent difficulties were a symptom of the lack of strategic and market expertise, Mr Booth said, adding that Mr Hulme would fill that gap.

However, Mr Booth added that it was a great tribute to Mr Grey that he had taken the company so far, with annual turnover of nearly £25m.

The group was badly hit by IBM's decision last year to withdraw

draw its notebook computer designed by Tadpole and replace it with its own products. Mr Grey's departure comes just as the group was having some success in wrestling with its problems. Losses mounted from £1.29m to £9.55m last year, but interim results in May showed losses cut from £5.94m to £1.66m.

The group has said it will announce new business and products from a 1994 partnership with Digital Equipment of the US and expects to cut its losses in the second half. Brokers forecast a deficit for the year to September of £2.8m-£3.2m.

Blowing the lid on what top managers actually do

ROGER TRAPP

Wall Street financier Stephen Roach's recent change of heart may have helped put "downsizing" out of fashion, but that does not mean organisations are going to stop getting smaller.

Indeed, management consultants Richard Koch and Ian Godden suggest that the process has a lot further to run. In their new book *Managing Without Management*, they say too many managers are taking too much out of the companies for which they supposedly work.

Going beyond the enthusiasm for such concepts as "delivering" and "empowerment", they argue that "management is now constraining the growth of large corporations and preventing them from taking the next strides in growth and shareholder value creation. It is taking an increasing share of the wealth, it is adding complexity to the decision-making processes and organisation structure and it is not devoting time and effort to the marketplace".

They stress that they do not really want to abolish management – just most managers. Do-

ing this requires dividing management into three categories: high-value, low-value and negative-value to customers. The latter should "definitely" be abolished, more because of what it does to an organisation's ability to serve customers than because of its cost". The others should be reallocated from management to "doing".

This is essentially what ABB – the Swedish-Swiss engineering group whose chief executive is famous for cutting 90 per cent of headquarters staff – has done. Personnel work, for in-

sance, is carried out by line managers rather than by a huge corporate department. Similar initiatives have been adopted by US rival General Electric. But Mr Koch and Mr Godden claim these two organisations are still too complex and too focused on internal issues as opposed to those of the customer.

Achieving a life without managers depends on other factors, though. In addition to simplicity, this personal and unconventional leadership can become "the substitute for costly and inefficient management".

The problem, of course, is that many more people will lose their jobs. Some, no doubt, will be able to join or form smaller organisations the authors say are increasingly taking the large corporations' market share. But, as Mr Koch admitted this week, there will be significant social and political repercussions.

Neither he nor his co-author has the solution for dealing with that situation. But they regard it as inevitable and see their book as an attempt to start the debate before it is too late.

Somerfield gets a cool welcome

NIGEL COPE

Somerfield has received a lukewarm response from potential investors ahead of the publication of its results on Monday and a pathfinder prospectus later next week.

One analyst said the £500m float had only "an even money" chance of getting away while a leading City fund manager said the company's bankers were "becoming nervous" about its prospects. It is possible that the flotation would be pulled if the pricing fell below a certain level.

The adverse reaction follows admissions by the company that the new issues market has become more difficult in recent weeks. "There have been a lot of floatations and there is a hit of indigestion out there," one source close to the company said. One analyst said: "From what I hear, the institutions aren't that interested."

There have been a number of recent new issues which have been priced at the upper end of expectations and then proved a disappointment. One example is Jarvis Hotels which came to the market last month priced at 175p. Yesterday the shares closed at 172p.

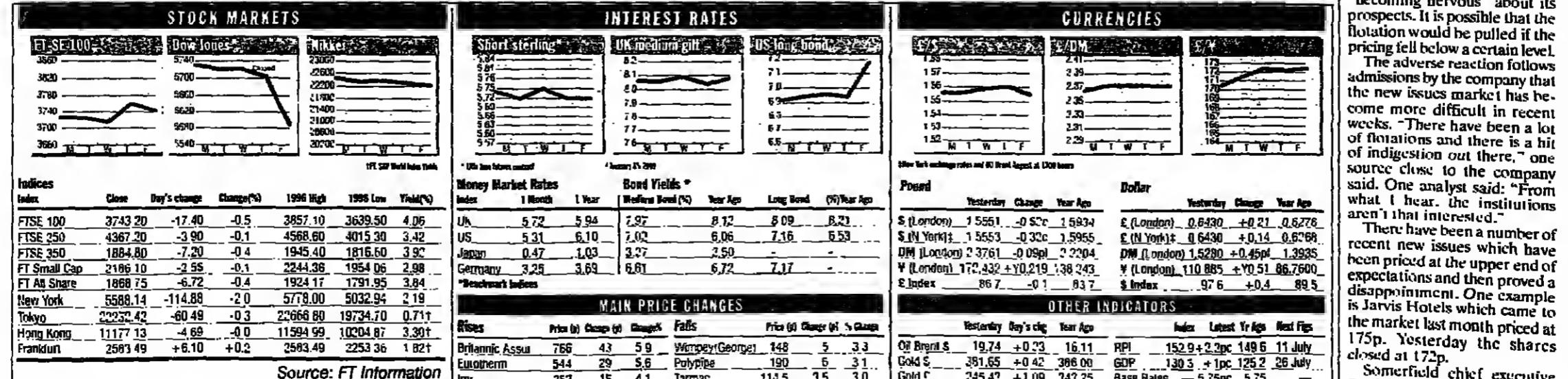
Somerfield's chief executive, David Simons, said the feedback from City investors had been positive. Tony MacNeeley of NatWest Securities, which is broker to the issue, said that "more than half of institutions were favourably disposed towards the float with the obvious caveat of the price."

City doubts about the flotation coincided with rumours that the company's backers have prepared contingency plans should the float fail. This would see backers swap their debt for equity, followed by a rights issue that would raise around £50m which would be injected into Somerfield. The company said it had no knowledge of such a plan.

Somerfield, which was born out of the disastrous Isosceles buyout in the late 1980s, has struggled to throw off the dead weight of its past. It has been changing its stores to take Somerfield format, though a third of the chain still trade under the old Gateway name where sales are weak.

Somerfield is the biggest non-privatised float of the year with 20 per cent of the shares being offered to private investors.

David Simons and four other directors stand to receive a bonus of £5m as a result of the flotation, though Mr Simons has said he will invest the bulk of his entitlement in Somerfield shares.





COMMENT

There were too few traders around for the half-day holiday session to make it the howler it might have been. But the bears could be out in force again come Monday, when the full complement of dealers return to their desks'.

Cash is such a comfort when the Dow hiccups

Is this the big one? With Wall Street down 100 points by the close of play London time yesterday, it certainly looked as if that long-expected correction in US equity markets might finally be under way. Once again, it was the monthly jobs report that threatens to burst the bubble in share prices.

In the event, the day's fall in the Dow Jones index turned out to be less dramatic than its 171-point drop following March's strong employment figure. There were too few traders around for the half-day holiday session to make it the howler it might have been. But the bears could be out in force again come Monday, when the full complement of dealers return to their desks'.

Their case is a mighty strong one. The bond-to-equity yield ratio matched its 1987 pre-crash peak yesterday, levels of new issues have set a record this year thanks to hi-tech offerings, and the flow of new investment in mutual funds has been unsustainably high. Furthermore, yesterday's employment figures make clear that the US economy is accelerating rather than slowing, and that wage inflation is creeping up not falling back. Other forward-looking economic indicators have been delivering the same message. It is a racing certainty that US interest rates must begin to move up again from here on in.

If you think the reaction of shares had been too sharp, just look at bonds which have taken on the pallor of the terminally ill. The benchmark Treasury long-bond yield

returned to its May 1994 level. This is where the real danger for equities lies: the last time bonds were at this level, the Dow Jones index was more than 50 per cent lower than it is now. What that indicates is that equities have become seriously overvalued.

None of this necessarily means Wall Street is heading for a mini-crash, dragging London with it. Financially, the world is a more stable place than it was in February 1994 or October 1987. Inflation is lower, currencies have corrected their serious misalignment, and above all, the industrial countries have set their economic policies on a course of fiscal retrenchment and anti-inflationary rigour that will ultimately underpin the financial markets. None the less, being out of Wall Street is a much more comforting feeling than being in it right now.

Sumitomo's role raises serious doubts

It is easy enough to dismiss the claims of a couple of recently established copper trading firms that Yasuo Hamanaka did not act alone, and that other senior people at Sumitomo knew more than they care to admit about what was going on.

They would say that, wouldn't they, because both Hampshire-based Winchester Commodities and Global Minerals and Metals of New York have a lot of explaining to do about their close relationship with

Mr Hamanaka. His business made the owners of these two recently established firms wealthy beyond a lottery winner's dreams in a very short space of time.

But the picture is transformed when the same claim about wider involvement by the Sumitomo hierarchy is made by the commodities subsidiary of one of the biggest banks in the world, Crédit Lyonnais. Furthermore, the statement by Crédit Lyonnais Rouse is only a more detailed version of what Merrill Lynch, another big name that must be listened to, said in a statement a fortnight ago.

Both have said that their dealings with Sumitomo, which have been central to the events in the copper market over recent years, were authorised out just by Mr Hamanaka but at senior levels in the Japanese company, and with all the paperwork completed and delivered in proper order.

This is a serious blow to Sumitomo's credibility. The affair has come full circle from the company's original claim that Mr Hamanaka was a Nick Leeson-like rogue trader to an overwhelming suspicion that Sumitomo knew far more than it has so far admitted. It may well be that Mr Hamanaka did indeed go off the rails and attempted to defraud the company, as his employers have alleged.

But the charge Sumitomo must fight to disprove is that Mr Hamanaka's long career it also approved of and financed his regular attempts to corner the copper mar-

ket and manipulate prices. In the Barings case, the worst that could ultimately be said about Mr Leeson's superiors is that they were incompetent. They connived to give him as much finance as he needed for his reckless trades, but they didn't understand the risks he was taking, or that he was trading on their account. The verdict on the Sumitomo lot, once the regulators have done their work, could end up a good deal more serious.

Posties lay a golden egg

A penny on postage may not quite cancel

about a penny off income tax, but one glance at the Post Office's latest figures shows why it has become too much of a cash cow to be sacrificed on the altar of privatisation. Sir Michael Heron, the organisation's chairman, has a couple of other good reasons why the Post Office won't be privatised this side of the millennium. The way he figures it, either the Conservatives will be out of office shortly or they will be returned by such a slender majority that ministers won't be able to risk incurring the wrath of the Tory shires by reflooding the idea of Royal Mail privatisation.

There is, however, a more compelling case for keeping the business in the state sector and it lies in the quite staggering contribution the humble postie now makes to

the public finances. Over the next three years the Treasury will raise close on £1bn from payments made by the Post Office through the mechanism of the External Finance Limit. These sort of cash-book financial controls may make the blood boil around the Post Office. But since they are enough to finance half-a-penny off income tax or abolish inheritance tax altogether ministers are unlikely to want to alter things.

Do not be lulled into supposing that Post Office profits have peaked, just because they fell last year for the first time in six years. The fall is largely due to the decision to pump extra investment into the Royal Mail and take some asset write-downs in Parcelforce.

The 1p rise in postal prices being introduced on Monday will be enough to add £150m to the bottom line alone, while the Post Office is about to be saddled with even tighter efficiency targets by Government which should extract another £500m out of the Royal Mail's cost base over the next few years.

Faced with those sort of sums, why should any Government be in hurry to kill the goose that lays the golden egg? The Post Office learnt long ago not to expect too many favours from the present administration. Unfortunately for its executives, the Post Office may be an even more tempting target for Labour in its search for electorally pain-free ways of financing public spending pledges on health and education.

Merrydown toasts Dogs' success with Rhubarb

MAGNUS GRIMOND

Fresh from its success with Two Dogs, the alcoholic lemonade from Australia, the East Sussex cider maker Merrydown is launching alcoholic rhubarb on unsuspecting UK drinkers.

Rhubarb Rhubarb, named by Two Dogs' inventor Duncan MacGillivray, is 5 per cent proof and revives memories of a generation ago when Merrydown sold its own rhubarb wine.

Merrydown is hoping the tip-off will repeat the success of Two Dogs, which it revealed yesterday had helped return it to the black last year after two years of losses.

The alcoholic lemonade, launched last August, has with its main rival, Bass's Hoopers Hooch, retained 90 per cent of its market estimated to be worth £150m at the end of last year despite the appearance of over 50 copycat products. Merrydown is now preparing to launch into 16 European countries.

Richard Purdey, Merrydown chairman, said yesterday that Two Dogs' contribution was "undeniably a very useful boost in accelerating our recovery", which saw losses of £2.7m turn into profits of £2.03m in the year to March. The figures were boosted by the absence of

£2.2m of exceptional charges taken the previous year, but underlying margins tripled to 7.6 per cent. A final dividend of 2.5p, raising the total to 4.5p for last year, compares with just 1p before.

Demand for Two Dogs was spurred by last summer's hot

Midlands brewers pay £7.5m for Mercury stake

Two Midlands brewers are paying £7.5m for a two-thirds stake in Mercury Taverns, a group formed specially to buy 111 pubs from Bass in 1993, writes Magnus Grimond. The price being received by NatWest Ventures and Murray Johnstone Values Mercury at £1.4m, which compares with the £2.3m that the Mercury management, backed by the venture capitalists, paid for the original business in 1993. Mercury is understood to remain highly geared.

The latest transaction, which will leave management with one-third of Mercury's equity, involves the formation of a 50:50 joint venture between Burton-on-Trent-based Marston, Thompson & Everard and Wolverhampton & Dudley breweries. The two

brewers will take on the beer supply agreements for Two Dogs' introduction was unlikely to be repeated. A new £500,000 advertising campaign is just starting in the UK.

The core cider business also did well out of last year's summer, Mr Purdey said. Volumes of the group's brands, including Merrydown Vintage and Merrydown Original, exceeded the 15 per cent growth recorded by the market. The group increased its market share from 3.7 per cent to 4 per cent and Mr Purdey reaffirmed his view that Merrydown would do well out of the industry's consolidation.

This had seen some brands disappear and more emphasis on brand-building by the remaining players, he said. Prices had recovered 15 to 20 per cent since hitting bottom in January 1995, when the recent price war amongst cider groups was at its height.

Mr Purdey said that Merrydown would reveal in September how it proposed to deal with the impending 50 per cent duty increase on stronger ciders over 7.5 per cent alcohol.

Merrydown's shares closed a penny higher on the news at 140p. They have more than doubled since touching a low of 67p in January 1995.

Merger gives Harveys listing

NIGEL COPE

Lord Harris, the Carpetright chairman and Conservative Party benefactor, secured his second stock market vehicle yesterday when the £80m merger between Harveys, the home furnishings chain, and Cantors, the furniture retailer, was confirmed.

The Harris family, which controlled a 43 per cent stake in the Harveys home furnishings chain, will see its stake in the new company reduced to just over 20 per cent, valuing it at £16m.

Harveys' textile ranges, such as curtains, will be introduced to Cantors furniture stores. The number of stores will be expanded from 300 to 400 over the next three to four years. Around 12 stores will close as part of a rationalisation programme.

The Cantor family, which owned a 40 per cent stake prior to the deal, will sell its shareholding cut to 17 per cent. Cantors' chairman Nick Jeffries said: "It is sad that Cantors will not be the major trading name, but it will not disappear. This is

a good deal and I'm very enthusiastic about it."

However, Cantors staff criticised the company for failing to keep workers informed.

As part of the deal, Cantors has announced a placing of an open offer to raise £8.3m to fund the costs of the merger and to provide working capital. The one-for-three placing and offer is priced at 165p.

The merger is on the basis of 883 Cantors shares for every 50 Harveys. This values each Harveys share at £29.14.

Lloyd's capacity remains steady

PETER RODGERS

Managing agents in the Lloyd's market expect insurance capacity to rise only marginally next year to £10.17bn from £9.99bn, Lloyd's said yesterday.

The tiny rise in the figures, released as the market prepares for Monday's start of the first of a groundbreaking series of capacity auctions, suggests agents are still cautious about the outlook for insurance rates. Capacity is a measure of the total amount of insurance premiums the market can accept in 1997.

The auctions will allow members to bid for capacity in the syndicates of their choice, turning membership into a tradeable commodity with a market price.

Paul Sandlands, managing director of Richmond Underwriting, said he expected much more interest in the auctions than the first time round last year, when the procedures were on trial.

He expected corporate investors in the market would show "a significant interest for the first time" and prices to rise. One advantage of the auctions

is that members can readjust their portfolios by buying and selling in the market. Some agents, including Mr Sandlands, believe that eventually all the way to get in and out of the Lloyd's market will be at auction.

The first will be completed a few days ahead of the key meeting of Lloyd's members in the Royal Festival Hall on Monday 27 July to approve the £5.1bn reconstruction and renewal plan on which the rescue of the market is based.

With hopes rising that the vast majority of members will vote in favour, Lloyd's also appears to be making headway in negotiations to remove the most serious obstacle to the rescue.

This is the threat that the US authorities will deem the plan to include the issue of a security, which would prevent the rescue going ahead in its present form in the US. Lloyd's said: "Hopes remain high that we can resolve this by the end of next week."

Lloyd's is expected next week to announce profits for 1995, the latest accounting year, of more than £1bn. The auction will be held on 27 July, with a special £500m bonus.

IN BRIEF

• Redland told analysts trading volumes had recovered to near normal levels following a seasonally weak first quarter. Redland said the upturn, which began in April, continued into June "and is expected to continue in the second half of the year". German housing permits, a key lead indicator of demand for Redland's German sales, fell 3 per cent year-on-year in the four months to 30 April.

• Deutscher Babcock's shares slumped as much as 30 per cent to DM50 (£21) amid market rumours of a financial crisis at the German engineering group. It was the latest bout in a wave of speculation that had wiped almost 70 per cent off Babcock's share price since the beginning of the year.

• Ladbrokes sold its long leasehold interest at 20 Farringdon Road in London, which is occupied by broker Merrill Lynch, for £67.3m to Capital & Income. The proceeds will be used to reduce debt and provide funds for reinvestment in its core leisure businesses.

• Minoro sold its interest in Liberty International, formerly TransAtlantic Holdings, to SBC Warburg and UBS, for £56.6m. Before the sale, Minoro held 4.7 per cent of the ordinary shares and 9.81 per cent of the preference shares.

• Bardon bought EL Gardner of the US for a total sum of \$25m (£16m). The company said \$10m was paid in cash on completion and \$15m is in a 12-month loan note. The book value of Gardner's net assets at 31 May was \$10.8m.

• Newman Tonks, the building materials group, sold its Norwegian hardware and locks unit for £16.45m to Swedish group ASSA Abloy. The company said the sale reduces the group's gearing, which reached over 80 per cent on the acquisition of NT Dor-O-Matic Inc in March, to around 50 per cent.

• Pearl Assurance said the Government approved its plan to reward shareholders with a huge payout from surplus life insurance funds, raising hopes that other British insurance companies could follow suit. Its owners, Australian Mutual Provident Society, will gain nearly £1bn, while Pearl's 2 million policyholders will receive 90 per cent of a special £500m bonus.

125,000 Sids chase British Energy



On the road: Robert Hawley has just returned from Japan

Private investors had submitted 125,000 applications for shares in the nuclear generator British Energy by last night, making the public offer about half-subscribed, writes Michael Harrison.

The number of applications is running above the level at the same stage in the flotation of Railtrack when 100,000 investors had signed up for shares with six days to go before the offer closed.

The Government's advisers on the British Energy sale estimate that about £250m worth of applications have so far been submitted by small investors compared with the £500m or so of shares being set aside.

They also denied suggestions that institutional interest in the offer was proving weak in the US and Japan, saying bids for shares from US institutions had been delayed by Thursday's public holiday while the Ener-

gy roadshow, led by chief executive Robert Hawley, had only just returned from the Far East.

The public offer closes next Wednesday and, with share sales having logged 1.7 million registrations, it is expected to be at least twice subscribed.

The institutional offer is already fully subscribed at 200p-230p a share valuing British Energy at around £1.5bn, the middle of the Government's £1.26bn-£1.96bn range. The final valuation could rise if institutional demand picks up before the international book-building exercise closes next Friday.

Some investors have been deterred by worries of falling electricity prices hampering British Energy's ability to pay dividends. But the early levels of public and institutional interest suggest that the offer has been priced sufficiently low to succeed.



ScottishPower

Recommended Increased Offer for Southern Water

Post your Form of Acceptance to arrive by 1.00pm, Tuesday 16th July, 1996.



If you have not received your Form of Acceptance or have any queries please phone 0800 137 743

The Directors of ScottishPower are the persons responsible for the information contained in this message. Those Directors confirm that, to the best of their knowledge and belief, having taken all reasonable care to ensure that such is the case, the information contained in this message is in accordance with the facts and does not omit anything likely to affect the import of such information. The Directors of ScottishPower accept responsibility accordingly.

*ScottishPower reserves the right to extend the Increased Offer.

market report/shares

DATA BANK

FT-SE 100

3743.2 - 17.4

FT-SE 250

4367.2 - 3.9

FT-SE 350

1884.8 - 7.2

SEAO VOLUME

677.3m shares,

31,420 bargains

Gilt Index

92.69 - 0.33

SHARE SPOTLIGHT

share price, pence

550

500

450

400

350

300

250

200

150

100

50

0

BRITANNIC

Source: Business

JASON J F MAM J

US rate fears set Footsie on a roller-coaster ride

It was an astonishing, volatile session for shares. At one time the FT-SE 100 index was posting a 29.4 gain, representing a 7.9 advance since the start of trading on Thursday.

Then the dreaded US employment figures appeared. Once again they showed the US economy was moving ahead. But that was not what stock markets around the world wanted with the obvious implication that transatlantic interest rates would be pushed higher.

New York slumped; so did other markets with Footsie off one time down 31 points. By the close shares had got their second breath and the index was off 17.4 at 3,743.2.

The roller-coaster ride did not encourage much trading. Once again investment activity was moderate with much of the swings due to the defensive sensibilities of market makers.

Government stocks weak-

ened, unsettled by the ragged retreat of US bonds.

The US-inspired threat of higher domestic interest rates left building shares feeling the pinch. Banks and composite insurers were victims of US bonds with only Bank of Scotland resisting the downward tug. It was encouraged by next week's marketing for the sale of insurance group Standard Life's 52.3 per cent stake. The shares rose 5p to 249.5p after touching 249.5p.

Life insurers resisted the slide. Pearl Assurance, controlled by Australian Mutual Provident, has agreed a deal with the Department of Trade & Industry over its so-called orphan funds. It should result in a bonus, split between policy holders (90 per cent) and shareholders (10 per cent).

Legal & General, up 6p at 67.2p, has already concluded a similar deal.

But the insurers still talking

to the DTI sprang to life, completely ignoring such considerations as American employment numbers. Britannia jumped 43p to 766p and Refuge 15p to 475p. United Financial, which had already arranged an orphan deal, rose 20p to 765p.

Liberty International, the insurer, eased 3p to 357p as Mincor was confirmed as Thursday's seller. It sold an effective 5 per cent stake to SBC Warburg and UBS.

Zenith had another active session with the shares climbing 2p to a peak of 1,464p. US approval for its Kadian capsules for morphine doses seemed to be the major influence.

Other blue chips higher included BSkyB, the satellite television station, up 9p to 453p, on reports it had produced new digital specifications and a nudge from Warburg.

An upbeat trading statement helped Redland, the building materials group, to muster a 6p gain to 408p with RMC pulled 14p higher to 1,450p.

Pearson encountered selling, down 15p at 642p; Mirror Group and United News and Media felt the impact of the latest hostilities in the newspaper price war with Mirror off 5p at 203p and United 4p at 660p. British Airways shrugged off

the threatened pilots strike, gaining 2p to 538p.

Euromain recovered 29p of Thursday fall, closing at 545p.

Manchester Utd slipped 1p to 455p as rumours swirled around the City that finance director Robin Launders was

signing on for Leeds Utd, now controlled by Caspian, the media group.

Carraig, back from suspen-

sion after failing to capture

Leeds, traded at 4p, down 1.25p.

Upton & Southern, the department stores group re-

duced by ex-Icahn do-it-yourself chief Ron Trenter, held at 3.75p. There is talk it will be the target of the takeover of a well known store.

Chepstow Racecourse held at 1,110p. Stan Clarke, chair-

man of the St Modwen prop-

erty group and owner of

Upton and Newcastle race-

courses, has lifted his stake to

12.85 per cent, buying 13,150

shares. He has held an interest in the Welsh course since 1994, the year when he bid unsuccessfully for United Race-

courses, owner of Epsom, Sandown and Kempton.

Belcanto, a supplier to sup-

port vessels for the offshore oil

and gas industry, is paying a

special dividend of 20 cents a

share, enough to lift the share

price to 46p.

Dring's of Bath, a specialist

stonemason floated by stock-

broker Ellis & Partners, trad-

ed on AIM at 4p against 1.3p

placing.

Electronic Data Process-

ing held at 89p. Stockbroker

Albert E Sharp regard the

shares as a sell. It believes that

given the company's record of

under-shooting forecasts the

shares look fully valued even

if it does stage a modest re-

covery next year. Analyst

Richard Lucas is looking for

£2.5m (against £2.9m) this

year with £2.7m next.

TAKING STOCK

What is going on at En-

ermin, the aggregates group?

The shares rose 3p to 51p as

100,000 were snapped up at

50p. On Thursday Laing,

the French group, mounted

an agreed 46p a share bid.

There was speculation Red-

land, which has 41 per cent

following an unsuccessful

hostile bid two months ago,

had decided to return to the

fray. Its offer was 35p. La-

ingue has built a 41 per cent

shareholding.

English National Invest-

ment Co, where Bahamas-

based investor Joseph Lewis

has a significant influence,

jumped 14p to 96p.

There was talk of an invest-

ment presentation for Auto-

Nomy, with Internet text-

searching technology, where

ENI has an option on 20.1

per cent. BCE, also involved

in AutoNomy, edged forward

to 19.25p.

Share Price Data

Prices are in sterling except where stated. The yield is last year's dividend, grossed up by 20 per cent as a percentage of the share price. The price/earnings (P/E) ratio is the share price divided by last year's earnings per share, excluding exceptional items. Other details: Ex rights x Ex-dividend. A ex-dated is the date when shares are suspended from trading. Pd/Pd Paid up. AM Stock

The Independent Index

The index shows you to access real-time share prices by phone from Stoen. Simply dial 0891 123 355, followed by the 4-digit code printed next to each share. To receive the latest financial reports dial 0891 123 355 followed by one of the two digit codes below:

FT-SE 100 - Real-time 00 Starling Rates 04 Privateline Issues

UK Stock Market Report 01 Bullion Report 02 Electricity Shares

UK Company News 02 London Stock 03 Foreign Exchange

FT-SE 250 - Real-time 00 Starline Rates 04 Privateline Issues

UK Stock Market Report 01 Bullion Report 02 Electricity Shares

FT-SE 350 - Real-time 00 Starline Rates 04 Privateline Issues

UK Stock Market Report 01 Bullion Report 02 Electricity Shares

FT-SE 1000 - Real-time 00 Starline Rates 04 Privateline Issues

UK Stock Market Report 01 Bullion Report 02 Electricity Shares

FT-SE 2500 - Real-time 00 Starline Rates 04 Privateline Issues

UK Stock Market Report 01 Bullion Report 02 Electricity Shares

FT-SE 3500 - Real-time 00 Starline Rates 04 Privateline Issues

UK Stock Market Report 01 Bullion Report 02 Electricity Shares

FT-SE 10000 - Real-time 00 Starline Rates 04 Privateline Issues

UK Stock Market Report 01 Bullion Report 02 Electricity Shares

FT-SE 100000 - Real-time 00 Starline Rates 04 Privateline Issues

UK Stock Market Report 01 Bullion Report 02 Electricity Shares

FT-SE 1000000 - Real-time 00 Starline Rates 04 Privateline Issues

UK Stock Market Report 01 Bullion Report 02 Electricity Shares

FT-SE 10000000 - Real-time 00 Starline Rates 04 Privateline Issues

UK Stock Market Report 01 Bullion Report 02 Electricity Shares

FT-SE 100000000 - Real-time 00 Starline Rates 04 Privateline Issues

UK Stock Market Report 01 Bullion Report 02 Electricity Shares

FT-SE 1000000000 - Real-time 00 Starline Rates 04 Privateline Issues

UK Stock Market Report 01 Bullion Report 02 Electricity Shares

FT-SE 10000000000 - Real-time 00 Starline Rates 04 Privateline Issues

UK Stock Market Report 01 Bullion Report 02 Electricity Shares

FT-SE 100000000000 - Real-time 00 Starline Rates 04 Privateline Issues

UK Stock Market Report 01 Bullion Report 02 Electricity Shares

FT-SE 1000000000000 - Real-time 00 Starline Rates 04 Privateline Issues

UK Stock Market Report 01 Bullion Report 02 Electricity Shares

FT-SE 10000000000000 - Real-time 00 Starline Rates 04 Privateline Issues

UK Stock Market Report 01 Bullion Report 02 Electricity Shares

FT-SE 100000000000000 - Real-time 00 Starline Rates 04 Privateline Issues

UK Stock Market Report 01 Bullion Report 02 Electricity Shares

FT-SE 1000000000000000 - Real-time 00 Starline Rates 04 Privateline Issues

sport

Armstrong joins the drop-outs

Cycling

ROBIN NICHOLL

with the Tour de France

Demanding television schedules and cruel weather have made Tour de France life harder than usual, and yesterday the former world champion Lance Armstrong joined the list of drop-outs.

Armstrong who on Thursday came close to blows with the French rider Gilles Bouvard yesterday threw in the towel after 75 kilometres. The Tour doctor, Gerard Porte said: "He is totally exhausted from his racing so far this year."

Armstrong was not alone. In all 14, including Wednesday's stage-winner Cyril Saugrain, quit yesterday, and three others were eliminated for failing to beat the finishing deadline. That brought the list of missing in action to 31 in the first week.

For those that completed the stage, the slippery roads again proved a test of nerve and agility. First home in Aix-les-Bains was a damp but happy Dutchman Michael Boogerd who escaped with a kilometre remaining for his first significant victory.

Laurent Jalabert, France's great hope to unseat Miguel Indurain, was third, but his fellow countryman Stephane Heulot still has the yellow jersey.

Yesterday Heulot lost his team-mate Eddy Seigneur, which means more work for the remaining eight.

On Wednesday the Armstrong had been angry at Bouvard's wild riding at the

Besançon finish, which brought down the American's teammate Laurent Madouas. It was a sign of the twitchiness existing among riders who have been tackling rain-slicked roads since the Dutch start at Den Bosch on Saturday. They have regularly fallen behind the schedule set by the organisers, by as much as an hour on three occasions.

It is not easy with the rain and the strong headwinds, Heulot said. "It is not that we do not want to go faster. We just cannot. It is slippery and we have to be careful all the time, and it is making us nervous."

The Frenchman Richard Virenque enjoys the Alps. He has twice won the red polka dotted jersey of best climber, but he too is apprehensive with the first big climbs due today. "We could do with some sunshine," he said. "Some of us are sick already and if the weather continues like this we will get worse."

Today they face the 2,000 metres Col de la Madeleine and 1,968m Cormet de Roselend followed by the knock-out blow for many, the 14km of six per cent gradient to Les Arcs with the finish just over the 1,700m summit.

Because of late starts, to assist television programming, and late finishes, because of headwinds and a general anxiety to make it to Paris in just over two weeks, the organisers have tried to ease matters.

They started yesterday's 207

kilometres from Arc-et-Senans punctually, and the riders responded with a 40kph pace in

spite of rain, accompanied by thunder and lightning, that tested the resilience of riders, and spectators, alike.

John Headshot heads the team that keeps Armstrong and his Motorola men supple for each day's racing. It has never been an easy life in the backroom tuning men and machines, and current schedules are squeezing everyone's downtime.

"In such circumstances riders do not have time to recover," he said. "They no longer eat together (good for team bonding), as some are getting massaged while others are eating."

Then there is the travelling between hotels and starts and finishes. The riders have to understand however that the sport needs television coverage, so sacrifices have to be made.

For some team workers their job will get easier as teams thin out, but that is not the aim of sponsors.

TOUR DE FRANCE Stage 6: Arc-et-Senans to Aix-les-Bains Friday 5 July, 120 miles

START Arc-et-Senans

Saints

Pont-du-Navoy

Clairvaux-les-Lacs

Saint-Claude

Saint-Germain-de-Joux

Bellecôte

Frangy

Rumilly

FINISH Aix-les-Bains

1000m

TOUR DE FRANCE Stage 7: Chambéry to Les Arcs Saturday 6 July, 124 miles

START Chambéry

Montbonnot

Le Chambon

Bourg-Saint-Maurice

Les Arcs

2000m

1000m

TOUR DE FRANCE Stage 8: Bourg-Saint-Maurice to Val d'Isère Sunday 7 July, 18 miles

START Bourg-Saint-Maurice

Saint

Sainte-Foy-Tarentaise

La Thuile

2000m

1000m

FINISH Val d'Isère

1000m

Collins not ready to relinquish hard-won respect



Out of the shadows: Steve Collins is the favourite for tonight's WBO super-middleweight title fight against Nigel Benn

Photograph: Allsport

Glyn Leach on the long road to glory for Ireland's boxing hero

room, but first targeted another stablemate, Chris Pyati, who held the WBO middleweight title. Making the fight was not easy, however, and Collins grew so frustrated during his first year in England that he vowed to quit boxing if 1994 did not bring a world title fight. He now had three children and an undercard fighter's pay did not stretch far.

Now did Collins enjoy supporting roles: "Boxing to kill time on somebody else's big night, while the television stations were waiting to go live with the main event, in front of a couple of hundred disinterested people who couldn't wait until the fight was over." He can see his point.

Pyati was finally beaten in five rounds in May 1994 and the door opened for Collins to crash the big time with his wins over Eubank, featuring the controversial assistance of Tony Quinn, hypnotherapist and former sex guru. Two further defences have been negotiated, with Quinn noticeably absent from Collins's corner, at least physically, last time out.

Collins has developed a rugged but highly effective style, reliant on relentless pressure and chin strength. He doubts Benn can stand the pace. "It's too strong. I've come too far to lose," he says. "I know from looking at him that I can beat him."

Benn has an unjested reputation for having bad stamina and a weak chin, but when threatened, as by the dangerous Americans Iran Barkley and Gerald McClellan (when Benn was hypnotised by Paul McKenna), he moves up a gear. Benn is

reliant on challenges, he blames over-training for his loss of the World Boxing Council title to Sugar Boy Maina four months ago, but Benn always struggles against slick boxers like Maina and a full-frontal brawl with Collins might prove right up his street.

Collins, though, has never been stopped and only Eubank has dropped him in 35 contests. He has had fewer fights than Benn and, crucially, he might be fresher. If Collins can take Eubank's best shots and avoid cuts he can outwork the former champion over 12 hard rounds. Maybe then he would have to consider spending a little more time in Jersey...

WIN A FERRARI CONVERTIBLE FOR A MONTH WITH

THE INDEPENDENT



tri

If you have ever dreamed of sitting behind the wheel of the ultimate up-to-date sports car, read on, because this week The Independent and the Independent on Sunday are giving you the chance to do just that. Enter our prize draw and you could be the lucky reader who wins the drive of a lifetime, in a Ferrari 348 Spider supplied by specialist car rental firm, TRI.

The prize includes full insurance and delivery to your door, all you have to worry about is enjoying the thrill of the open road in a car which combines stunning looks with high performance.

The Ferrari 348 Spider is by any definition a supercar. The magnificent all aluminium 3405cc, 32 valve, double overhead cam engine develops a heart-pounding 300 bhp, capable of reaching

60 mph in just 5.3 seconds and a top speed of 170 mph. To go with all this power the 348 is meticulously engineered to deliver exceptional road holding and exhilarating handling. The Ferrari 348 Spider is, in true Ferrari tradition, above all an extremely beautiful car. Designed by Pininfarina and built in Maranello to the highest standards of Italian craftsmanship, this is without doubt one of the most desirable cars on the road.

The Ferrari will be delivered to the lucky winner's door by TRI Car Rental & Leasing, one of the country's leading companies specialising in the rental and leasing of exclusive cars. Whether you want a Ferrari, an Aston Martin, a Porsche or a Mercedes, TRI has a car to suit your requirements. For general enquiries, details of rental charges and

any further details please call TRI on 0181 466 7876.

How to enter

To enter our Ferrari prize draw you must collect four differently numbered tokens from the eight we will be printing in The Independent and the Independent on Sunday. Today we are printing Token 1; Token 2 will be printed in The Independent on Sunday tomorrow. You will need to send your tokens with a completed entry form which will be printed on Tuesday and again next Saturday.

Terms and conditions

1. To enter our Ferrari Prize Draw you need to collect 4 differently numbered tokens and complete an entry form.

2. The closing date for entries is 26 July

1996. Send to: The Independent/Ferrari Prize Draw, PO Box 204, Welwyn Garden City, Hertfordshire AL7 1TZ.

3. For missing tokens or an entry form, please send separate SAE's to: The Independent/Ferrari, Token Request or Entry Form, PO Box 92, Welwyn Garden City, Hertfordshire AL7 1BT. Only 4 tokens are available per application. Requests must be received by first post 19 July 1996.

4. Employees and agents of Newspaper Publishing Ltd or those of any other national newspaper company or any firm connected with the promotion are not eligible to take part, either are their relatives nor members of their families or households.

5. The winner must co-operate for publicity purposes if required and accept that his/her name and photograph will

be published in the paper.

6. Photocopies of tokens not accepted.

7. The promoter reserves the right in their absolute discretion to disqualify any entry or competitor, nominee, or to add to, or waive any rules.

8. No correspondence will be entered into. Proof of postage will not be accepted as proof of receipt. The promoter will not take responsibility for entries lost or damaged in the post.

9. Readers may enter more than once, but only one entry can be entered per postal application.

10. The prize will be available to the winner for one month between August and December 1996.

11. The winner must be between 25-70 years of age, have held a full driving licence for a minimum of 2 years and have a satisfactory driving record.

12. The prize draw is open to residents of the UK and the Irish Republic. The prize will be as stated, with no cash alternative. The Editor's decision is final. Promoter: Newspaper Publishing Ltd, One Canada Square, London E14 5DL.



Halling can do the double

Sue Montgomery believes last year's Winner is the best option in the Eclipse

The stage at Sandown is set to-day for the 99th running of one of the oldest all-aged championships in the calendar, named after one of the Titans of the Toff. The Eclipse Stakes brings the best of the middle-distance generations together for the first time in Britain during the season, and if today's race may lack the absolute quality of some previous renewals — notably the 1903 running, when four-year-old Ard Patrick, the previous year's Derby hero, beat his contemporary Scopre, who had taken the other four Classics, with the three-year-old Rock Sand, who went on to complete the Triple Crown, back in third — it remains a fascinating contest.

The expansion of the post-war racing programme has taken some of the gloss off the Eclipse's status and in all the future over Cigar's much-lauded triumph in the newest of

the top-level events, the Duhar World Cup, the performance of one of today's contenders, Pen-tire, was slightly overlooked.

The four-year-old ran a blinder

to finish fourth, and has

since been looked after by his

trainer Geoff Wragg with this

in-tent in mind.

Pen-tire, only a few pounds

behind the very best last year,

when his only defeat came at the hands of Lammiattar in the King George, has been putting in some eye-catching work at home on the Newmarket gallops, though he is untried in public on easy ground. He never

usually wins by much, four

or less, and timing is of the

essence on him. But Sandown

is a course that brings out the

best in late pouncers, and since

his Derby win Michael Hills has been riding with great confidence.

The Godolphin candidate Halling will be bidding to become only the fourth horse this century to win successive runnings, after Buchan (1919-20), Polychromes (1924-25) and Mito (1987-88). Last year he

made all and hung on to beat Singspiel, who has declined to take him on again, and though he was a dire disappointment when last in the Dubai race, he returned to turf action in his old zestful style in the Prix D'Ispana at Longchamp in May.

Vanouar, who side-stepped that engagement because of the soft going, comes over from Chantilly, and win for the French would not be untimely. They harvested the race for a

while after the war with seven wins, but, after Trepan's technical disqualification 20 years ago, Javelot, in 1960, remains the last from France on the roll of honour. Vanouar, who would be the Aga Khan's first winner on these shores for six years, tends to carry his head high, but he is genuine and like Fenwick, owns a fine turn of foot, which he demonstrated when he beat Luso and Swain in the Prix Ganay at the end of April.

If Pen-tire and Vanouar are best when the ground is riding fast, Ireland's challenger Definite Article will appreciate every drop of rain that falls, and following yesterday's downpour those who backed him at 16-1 when the exchanges opened may now be feeling rather smug. The four-year-old, from Dermot Weld's yard, is a gritty customer, but may lack the agility to quicken needed to win

Vanouar and Pen-tire. They harvested the race for a

while after the war with seven

wins, but, after Trepan's

technical disqualification 20 years ago, Javelot, in 1960, remains the last from France on the roll of honour. Vanouar, who would be the Aga Khan's first winner on these shores for six years, tends to carry his head high, but he is genuine and like Fenwick, owns a fine turn of foot, which he demonstrated when he beat Luso and Swain in the Prix Ganay at the end of April.

If Pen-tire and Vanouar are

best when the ground is riding fast, Ireland's challenger Definite Article will appreciate every drop of rain that falls, and following yesterday's downpour those who backed him at 16-1 when the exchanges opened may now be feeling rather smug. The four-year-old, from Dermot Weld's yard, is a gritty customer, but may lack the agility to quicken needed to win

Vanouar and Pen-tire.

The field is completed by Beauchamp King, another who is stepping up in distance but who seems held by Bijou D'Inde. The Mark Johnston-trained colt, third in the Guineas, was staying on again when he snatched the St James's Palace Stakes from Ashkelon, but whether he can carry on for another two furlongs in this company is open to question.

The Godolphin candidate

Halling will be bidding to become only the fourth horse this

century to win successive runnings, after Buchan (1919-20),

Polychromes (1924-25) and Mito (1987-88). Last year he

made all and hung on to beat

Singspiel, who has declined to take him on again, and though he was a dire disappointment when last in the Dubai race, he returned to turf action in his old zestful style in the Prix D'Ispana at Longchamp in May.

Vanouar, who side-stepped that engagement because of the soft going, comes over from Chantilly, and win for the French would not be untimely. They harvested the race for a

while after the war with seven

wins, but, after Trepan's technical disqualification 20 years ago, Javelot, in 1960, remains the last from France on the roll of honour. Vanouar, who would be the Aga Khan's first winner on these shores for six years, tends to carry his head high, but he is genuine and like Fenwick, owns a fine turn of foot, which he demonstrated when he beat Luso and Swain in the Prix Ganay at the end of April.

If Pen-tire and Vanouar are

best when the ground is riding fast, Ireland's challenger Definite Article will appreciate

every drop of rain that falls, and following yesterday's downpour those who backed him at 16-1 when the exchanges opened may now be feeling rather smug. The four-year-old, from Dermot Weld's yard, is a gritty customer, but may lack the agility to quicken needed to win

Vanouar and Pen-tire.

The field is completed by Beauchamp King, another who is

stepping up in distance but who seems held by Bijou D'Inde. The

Mark Johnston-trained colt, third in the Guineas, was staying on again when he snatched the St James's Palace Stakes from Ashkelon, but whether he can carry on for another two furlongs in this company is open to question.

The Godolphin candidate

Halling will be bidding to become only the fourth horse this

century to win successive runnings, after Buchan (1919-20),

Polychromes (1924-25) and Mito (1987-88). Last year he

made all and hung on to beat

Singspiel, who has declined to take him on again, and though he was a dire disappointment when last in the Dubai race, he returned to turf action in his old zestful style in the Prix D'Ispana at Longchamp in May.

Vanouar, who side-stepped that engagement because of the soft going, comes over from Chantilly, and win for the French would not be untimely. They harvested the race for a

while after the war with seven

wins, but, after Trepan's technical disqualification 20 years ago, Javelot, in 1960, remains the last from France on the roll of honour. Vanouar, who would be the Aga Khan's first winner on these shores for six years, tends to carry his head high, but he is genuine and like Fenwick, owns a fine turn of foot, which he demonstrated when he beat Luso and Swain in the Prix Ganay at the end of April.

If Pen-tire and Vanouar are

best when the ground is riding fast, Ireland's challenger Definite Article will appreciate

every drop of rain that falls, and following yesterday's downpour those who backed him at 16-1 when the exchanges opened may now be feeling rather smug. The four-year-old, from Dermot Weld's yard, is a gritty customer, but may lack the agility to quicken needed to win

Vanouar and Pen-tire.

The field is completed by Beauchamp King, another who is

stepping up in distance but who seems held by Bijou D'Inde. The

Mark Johnston-trained colt, third in the Guineas, was staying on again when he snatched the St James's Palace Stakes from Ashkelon, but whether he can carry on for another two furlongs in this company is open to question.

The Godolphin candidate

Halling will be bidding to become only the fourth horse this

century to win successive runnings, after Buchan (1919-20),

Polychromes (1924-25) and Mito (1987-88). Last year he

made all and hung on to beat

Singspiel, who has declined to take him on again, and though he was a dire disappointment when last in the Dubai race, he returned to turf action in his old zestful style in the Prix D'Ispana at Longchamp in May.

Vanouar, who side-stepped that engagement because of the soft going, comes over from Chantilly, and win for the French would not be untimely. They harvested the race for a

while after the war with seven

wins, but, after Trepan's technical disqualification 20 years ago, Javelot, in 1960, remains the last from France on the roll of honour. Vanouar, who would be the Aga Khan's first winner on these shores for six years, tends to carry his head high, but he is genuine and like Fenwick, owns a fine turn of foot, which he demonstrated when he beat Luso and Swain in the Prix Ganay at the end of April.

If Pen-tire and Vanouar are

best when the ground is riding fast, Ireland's challenger Definite Article will appreciate

every drop of rain that falls, and following yesterday's downpour those who backed him at 16-1 when the exchanges opened may now be feeling rather smug. The four-year-old, from Dermot Weld's yard, is a gritty customer, but may lack the agility to quicken needed to win

Vanouar and Pen-tire.

The field is completed by Beauchamp King, another who is

stepping up in distance but who seems held by Bijou D'Inde. The

Mark Johnston-trained colt, third in the Guineas, was staying on again when he snatched the St James's Palace Stakes from Ashkelon, but whether he can carry on for another two furlongs in this company is open to question.

The Godolphin candidate

Halling will be bidding to become only the fourth horse this

century to win successive runnings, after Buchan (1919-20),

Polychromes (1924-25) and Mito (1987-88). Last year he

made all and hung on to beat

Singspiel, who has declined to take him on again, and though he was a dire disappointment when last in the Dubai race, he returned to turf action in his old zestful style in the Prix D'Ispana at Longchamp in May.

Vanouar, who side-stepped that engagement because of the soft going, comes over from Chantilly, and win for the French would not be untimely. They harvested the race for a

while after the war with seven

wins, but, after Trepan's technical disqualification 20 years ago, Javelot, in 1960, remains the last from France on the roll of honour. Vanouar, who would be the Aga Khan's first winner on these shores for six years, tends to carry his head high, but he is genuine and like Fenwick, owns a fine turn of foot, which he demonstrated when he beat Luso and Swain in the Prix Ganay at the end of April.

If Pen-tire and Vanouar are

best when the ground is riding fast, Ireland's challenger Definite Article will appreciate

every drop of rain that falls, and following yesterday's downpour those who backed him at 16-1 when the exchanges opened may now be feeling rather smug. The four-year-old, from Dermot Weld's yard, is a gritty customer, but may lack the agility to quicken needed to win

Vanouar and Pen-tire.

The field is completed by Beauchamp King, another who is

stepping up in distance but who seems held by Bijou D'Inde. The

Mark Johnston-trained colt, third in the Guineas, was staying on again when he snatched the St James's Palace Stakes from Ashkelon, but whether he can carry on for another two furlongs in this company is open to question.

The Godolphin candidate

Halling will be bidding to become only the fourth horse this

century to win successive runnings, after Buchan (1919-20),

Polychromes (1924-25) and Mito (1987-88). Last year he

made all and hung on to beat

Singspiel, who has declined to take him on again, and though he was a dire disappointment when last in the Dubai race, he returned to turf action in his old zestful style in the Prix D'Ispana at Longchamp in May.

Vanouar, who side-stepped that engagement because of the soft going, comes over from Chantilly, and win for the French would not be untimely. They harvested the race for a

while after the war with seven

wins, but, after Trepan's technical disqualification 20 years ago, Javelot, in 1960, remains the last from France on the roll of honour. Vanouar, who would be the Aga Khan's first winner on these shores for six years, tends to carry his head high, but he is genuine and like Fenwick, owns a fine turn of foot, which he demonstrated when he beat Luso and Swain in the Prix Ganay at the end of April.

If Pen-tire and Vanouar are

best when the ground is riding fast, Ireland's challenger Definite Article will appreciate

every drop of rain that falls, and following yesterday's downpour those who backed him at 16-1 when the exchanges opened may now be feeling rather smug. The four-year-old, from Dermot Weld's yard, is a gritty customer, but may lack the agility to quicken needed to win

Vanouar and Pen-tire.

The field is completed by Beauchamp King, another who is

stepping up in distance but who seems held by Bijou D'Inde. The

Mark Johnston-trained colt, third in the Guineas, was staying on again when he snatched the St James's Palace Stakes from Ashkelon, but whether he can carry on for another two furlongs in this company is open to question.

The Godolphin candidate

Halling will be bidding to become only the fourth horse this

century to win successive runnings, after Buchan (1919-20),

Polychromes (1924-25) and Mito (1987-88). Last year he

made all and hung on to beat

Singspiel, who has declined to take him on again, and though he was a dire disappointment when last in the Dubai race, he returned to turf action in his old zestful style in the Prix D'Ispana at Longchamp in May.

Vanouar, who side-stepped that engagement because of the soft going, comes over from Chantilly, and win for the French would not be untimely. They harvested the race for a

while after the war with seven

wins, but, after Trepan's technical disqualification 20 years ago, Javelot, in 1960, remains the last from France on the roll of honour. Vanouar, who would be the Aga Khan's first winner on these shores for six years, tends to carry his head high, but he is genuine and like Fenwick, owns a fine turn of foot, which he demonstrated when he beat Luso and Swain in the Prix Ganay at the end

sport

THIRD TEST: Tendulkar fails two short of his highest Test score before English openers survive uncomfortable closing overs

India grind their way to safety

DEREK PRINGLE

reports from Trent Bridge
India 521; England 32-0

Long before the first ball was bowled in this match, people were predicting a draw. It is still the most likely result after a slow-moving day where the greatest excitement centred around the 50-1 odds Ladbrokes were offering against an England victory, at the start of play.

However, with the pitch still shorn of pace, India's gradual accumulation of 521 has at least ensured that, even for mag punters, that particular result will remain out of reach.

In many ways, it was an old-fashioned sort of Test match day too: sedate, serene and, until the last session, watched by a vast, seemingly immune to oafish sing-songs and Mexican waves. Perhaps those gathered were anticipating a milestone first double century by Sachin Tendulkar.

If they were, their disappointment came just after lunch when the little maestro fell for 177, two short of his highest ever Test score, made against the West Indies in Nagpur in 1994. But if his departure set back India's plans of scoring rapidly in the hope of declaring before the close, England's bowlers deserved some credit for a much-improved performance that possessed both vitality and aggression.

Unfortunately for Cork, it tends to manifest itself in persistent and over-the-top lbw appeals. A good strong appeal

has always been considered essential in enquiring for lbws. However, Cork's doltish historicities verge on caricature, and can subconsciously set umpires against him. Yesterday he had Tendulkar plumb in from. Unhappily for Cork, his skin-shedding appeal could not persuade umpire Kandiah Francis, and the batsman survived until after lunch when he skied a miscued pull to Min Patel at mid-on.

The mistake, almost identical to the tired shot he got out at Edgbaston, gave Mark Ealham his maiden Test wicket. On this surface, the Kent seamer has looked fairly friendly, but he was knuckled down to his task of making scoring difficult, and the two wickets he finished with were earned with sweat rather than guile.

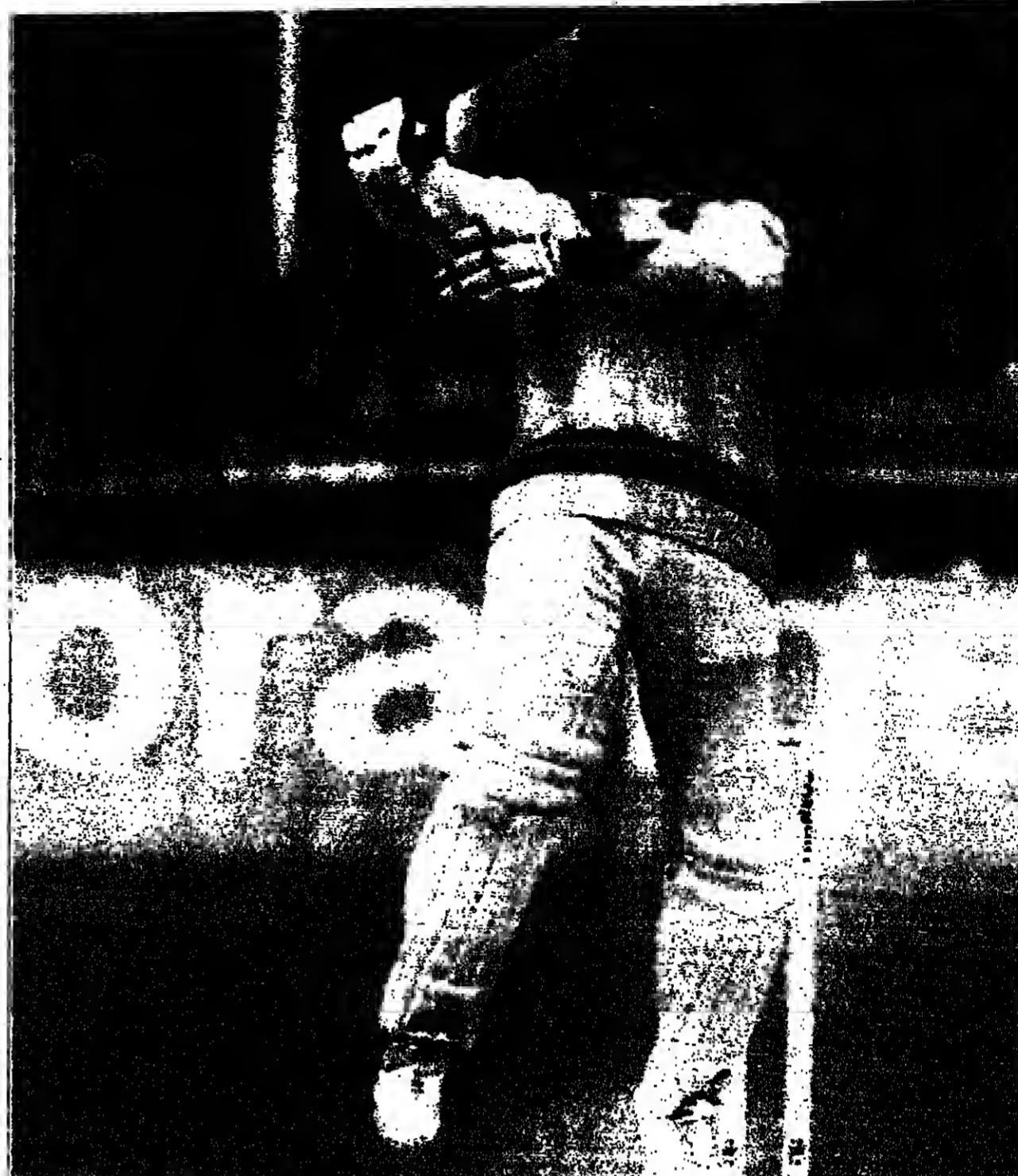
His team-mate, Patel, was less fortunate, and he has found that bowling spin without the turn against batsmen brought up in the sub-continent is a hazardous occupation and one that, since the days of that other Kent spinner, Derek Underwood, has rarely been held by one person for any great length of time.

Even when he resorted to the negative tactic of bowling over the wicket into the rough, he could not stem the run flow, and, just to cap a trying day, the cautious Manjrekar, who took over three hours for his fifty, swept him for six.

But if it was Manjrekar who provided Patel with the blessed relief of a first Test wicket, it was his sharp catch at short leg that provided another failure with the bat for Mohammad Azharuddin. One that, irrespective of the result of this game, has surely hastened Tendulkar's call to command.

With Azharuddin and Manjrekar gone, only Rahul Dravid of the recognised batsmen remained. As at Lord's he played beautifully, his wrists squash racket shots still managing to pierce Atherton's defensive fields. Able supported by the tail, he was last out, flashing wildly at Ealham, just 16 short of a first Test century.

It left England with an awkward 11 overs to negotiate before the close. Predictably – against the best bowlers in the series – they needed luck to do so and Atherton was reprieved by Dravid at third slip after Srinath got one to hold up off the pitch. Like the chance he gave Tendulkar on Thursday, it may be one India will have cause to regret.



Saurav Ganguly is struck on the hand by Alan Mullally yesterday. He was out next ball

Photograph: Peter Jay

Trent Bridge scoreboard

INDIA – First Innings	287 for 2
1st Innings, 287 for 2	
S C Ganguly c Hussain b Mullally	126
(Dravid, 20; Tendulkar, 77 runs, 2 stars)	
S R Tendulkar c Patel b Ealham	177
(538 min, 360 balls, 26 fours)	
S V Manjrekar c Patel b Patel	53
(217 min, 244 balls, 5 fours, 1 star)	
M A Azharuddin c Patel b Lewis	5
(17 min, 11 balls)	
R S Dravid c Tendulkar b Ealham	84
(119 min, 32 balls, 12 fours)	
A Kumble b/w b Mullally	0
(4 min, 6 balls)	
J Srinath c Cook b Lewis	1
(18 min, 9 balls)	
R K V Prasad run out (Stewart)	43
(78 min, 32 balls, 1 star)	
L V S Lala not out	2
5 Lbws not out	2
Extras (6, lb2, w7, nb13)	38
Total (597 min, 167 overs)	521
Fall (cont): min, 167 overs)	521
Tendulkar, 5-385 (Azharuddin), 6-446	
Manjrekar, 7-446 (Kumble), 8-453	
(Srinath, 9-513 (Prasad))	
Dravid, Lewis 37-10-49-3 (nb2, w13) (7-0-23-1, 5-150, 4-1-90, 4-2-40, 5-2-11, 0, 2-1-40, 3-1-12-1, 7-2-10-1; Cork 32-6-124-3 (nb4) (8-2-27-1, 3-0-29-0, 6-2-14-0, 7-2-22-0, 9-0-8-0, 5-0-24-0; Mullally 40-12-88-4 (nb1, w13) (13-1-9-0, 8-2-15-0, 2-0-8-0, 7-1-24-0, 7-2-1-5-1, 5-3-5-0, 3-2-1-1, 2-0-16-0;	
Umpires: R T Francis and G Sharp.	

Woosnam suffers from surfeit of sand

Golf

TIM GLOVER
reports from County Wicklow

They had already said the rough was too thick, the fairways were too narrow, the wind was too blowy and, for all we know, the grass was too green and the black stuff too bitter. Yesterday Ian Woosnam tossed a new complaint into the cauldron at Druids Glen: there is too much sand in the bunkers.

Woosnam shot 70, one under par for the day and, at one under for the championship, he is hardly placed for a tilt at the Murphy's Irish Open – although to listen to him after the second round you would have thought he was consigned to spending the weekend with his mother-in-law or, even worse, Howard Clark.

"The course is not too bad," Woosnam said, "but the bunkers are shocking. There's too much sand. I keep telling the

places. I've only been to a players' meeting once but nobody on the tour seems to listen, so what's the point? Nothing ever happens."

The little Welshman, who won the Irish Open in 1989, spared a thought for what he described as the "poor caddies." He said: "They are having a terrible time trying to rake the bunkers. If his wife, Glendy, was caddieing for him, the complaint might carry more weight. As it is, Woosnam has a young professional caddie, Philip Morley.

Alongside Woosnam at one under par is the Londoner, Ricky Willison, who this week has employed his wife, Alex, to carry his bag. The pair of them did exceptionally well yesterday with a 69 that included three birdies and a solitary bogey, at the first.

Willison managed to keep his wife out of the bunkers, which is just as well. The poor girl, no more than eight and a half

stones, has to carry the bag in all four rounds. Until recently the European Tour allowed caddies to use a trolley in the first two rounds of a tournament but they have been banned on the grounds that it does not present a suitable image for the television cameras. "It's a nonsense," Willison said. "The Tour should concern itself with golf, not on how things look on television."

The bunkers were made even more troublesome yesterday afternoon by a downpour and play was suspended for half an hour because of thunder and lightning. Colin Montgomerie, who thinks Druids Glen is the sort of course the Tour should play on every week, had gone to the top of the leaderboard when play was halted.

Resuming at two under, Monty reeled off nine pars, broken by three successive birdies. Bernhard Langer, who had a 67 in the first round despite the fact that he was critical of the way the course has

been set up, was in trouble at the 13th. His drive landed in the creek to the right of the fairway and, after taking a penalty drop, he laid up short of the lake. He escaped with a bogey five. However, Langer was in the water again at the short 17th and a double-bogey five there dropped him back to level par.

Gary Murphy, the 23-year-old former Irish amateur champion, remained on the leaderboard with a birdie on the 11th and an eagle three at the 16th. At that point Murphy, who received a sponsor's invitation to the championship, was four under par, a stroke behind Montgomerie.

After the first round the Dublin bookmaker, Sean Graham, cut Langer's odds to 9-4 and Monty's to 3-1. They had Murphy at 28-1, which did not seem at all generous, but the boy from Kilkenny may yet repay Murphy's with a suitably stout performance.

Scars. Sporting Digest, page 24

Exiles embark on unique tour

Sailing

STUART ALEXANDER
reports from Dieppe

While the Tour de France has become a thoroughly international affair, the threat of an overseas winner in sailing's equivalent, the Maritime race, which starts from here today, is only just gathering momentum.

Chris Dickson, hero in what seems to be permanently enforced exile from his native New Zealand, is back for his second attempt alongside Philippe Guigne. Paul Cayard joins Vincent Fertin and Russell Coutts, the Kiwi skipper in self-imposed exile but still the darling of his home supporters, is doing five of the Atlantic stages with Alain Federspiel.

Like the "pedaloes" last year, the yacht race diverts to Guernsey, a trickier 149 miles opening trip than a flat routing map suggests.

From there, the 23 identical

35ft Jeanneau 1 designs go down the Atlantic coast in daily stages to Aracanor, near Bordeaux. They are then trucked across to the Mediterranean and St Cyprien in French Catalonia, take a dive down to Spanish Catalonia, and make their way to the finish in Nice.

Each of the 15 ports stages an exhibition at the dockside, the shore crews and their trucks race in convoy from stop-over to stop-over. The tourist crowds enjoy it, the shops and restaurants profit from it. Would that Britain, or even just the South Coast of England, had the same, but there is rarely the will even if there is the finance among the local authorities.

This is the only event where students and amateurs can start on the same line, with the same equipment, as the best in the world," said Bruno Trouble, organiser of this \$1.8m (£1.2m) event now in its 19th year.

"In sailing this is a unique concept because the village and

venue changes every night. But it helps to make sailing very popular in France for the public, and at the same time sharpens the whole of French offshore sailing. In 18 years, 14,000 have taken part, and some, like Bertrand Pacé, have gone on to win at world level after being a product of the tour."

For Dickson, now the Whitbread co-skipper of his former America's Cup rival, Dennis Conner, the Tour is a challenging mix of short and long races, concentrated effort, and needless sharp competition.

"It's some of the best fleet racing in the world," he said.

In the Swedish Match Cup, in Stockholm, Russell Coutts beat Chris Law 3-0 to face Peter Gilmore in one semi-final, with Jesper Bank and Bertrand Pacé in the other.

The Republic of China will line up against both the local Aberdeen Yacht Club and Australia 2000, America's Cup syndicate in Hong Kong in Corum Cup in 1996.

Why it is wrong to blame bowlers

JON CULLEY

This has been a summer of relatively instant gratification for the England sports fan, so much so that after the emotional roller-coasters of Wembley and Wimbledon the patience required in watching a Test match, particularly when the opposition bats for the best part of two days, poses unfamiliar demands.

This has been reflected in the mood of the crowd at Trent Bridge, who sat through the final day almost in monastic silence and did not warm up yesterday until tea, by which time the number of wickets on the board reflected a degree of success even if the runs did not.

When the other side scores as substantially as India does, the nature of the critical English observer is bound to change. Here, the likes of Mohammad Min Patel and Alain Manjrekar, debutant and newcomer, as well as the inexperience of Chris Lewis, back off in awe of one of his unlikely new sensations, have been compelled to harsh judgement.

In fact, given the nature of the Nottingham pitch, properly prepared as a genuine Test match surface, and remembering the previous successes with which the Indian team has swept him for six, David Lloyd, the coach, has rightly been fully supportive.

He described the handwork of the groundsmen, Frank Dalling as "a Test match pitch as you would expect it to be."

And, even armed with Dalling's view that it would "not turn the month", he refused to accept that it was too good a surface.

He was happy enough with his bowlers' efforts in securing only two wickets on the first day, so the compliments he was handing out last night came as no surprise. Mullally, in particular, coped with the demands impressively, shouldering the burden of 40 overs without ever threatening to become ragged. And Ealham, who has his daughters, can be satisfied that no one got hold of him, as some feared would happen.

England cannot contemplate winning this Test, but provided that their batsmen do not make a hash of things the draw that will win the series looks safe, although the raucous factions who became emboldened after tea yesterday may not find much to excite them even if they stay until Tuesday.



Court circular

The fastest men in SW19

The top tennis players are rarely slow in coming forward but when it would seem that they are the fastest server in the game, it's Mark Morgan.

Even at Wimbledon tournaments race over who's the quickest and the best of the month and IBM do their level best to settle the rows with their Computer Court speedster.

This year several men are vying for the title of the fastest man in SW19 and all reckon one of the others is the most technocrat of Wimbledon.

The fastest Centre Court server of all was Japan's Shuzo Matsutomo who clocked 133 mph, just ahead of Mark Philippoussis and the Dutchman Richard Krajicek.

Philippoussis would seem to take the plaudits because of a second serve, only slightly

slower but he will have nothing to it.

Philippoussis, or Sead as he is known on the circuit, says the triple champion Pete Sampras is a stopper. "When he [Sampras] gets on a roll he feels he can go for any part of the line," said Philippoussis, who served 44 aces at Wimbledon.

Sampras, beaten in the



Double act: Tom Okker (left) and Ilie Nastase have a joke during their victory over Tony Roche and John Newcombe in the quarter-finals of the men's over-45 doubles at Wimbledon yesterday

Photograph: David Ashdown

Such's service for charity

The 10th seed at Wimbledon, Michael Such, only reached the fourth round this year but has been pouring a lot of his energy into promoting a charitable foundation, which he and his wife, Jessica Stockman, have founded.

The Michael Such Stiftung Charity assists HIV-infected children. With Capital provided by Such, plus the proceeds of a tennis event in Mainz, it has made heartening progress. "We should be to share some of our good fortune with those that need it,"

Such said.

Such, a former No 1 seed, has been pouring a lot of his energy into promoting a charitable foundation, which he and his wife, Jessica Stockman, have founded.

The Michael Such Stiftung Charity assists HIV-infected children. With Capital provided by Such, plus the proceeds of a tennis event in Mainz, it has made heartening progress. "We should be to share some of our good fortune with those that need it,"

Monday is people's day

With a third week looming at Wimbledon, all England club officials have confirmed that tickets for Sunday will be valid until the championship finish - whenever that is.

"If you have a ticket for Sunday it will be valid for subsequent days. They are not part of the rain cancellation scheme," said a club spokesman.

If Monday play is required

no decision over prices has been made but the club are trying to ensure that any unused tickets for the show courts will be offered to the general public. The last time Monday play was needed, in 1992, 7,798 turned up creating a "people's day".

The record for a third Monday at Wimbledon was set in 1982 when 15,257 came in through the gates.

QUOTE OF THE DAY

"I have nothing to lose... I will have to attack, see what happens and see if the luck is with me this time." Arantxa Sanchez Vicario

TODAY'S WEATHER

Morning fine, then showers

STATISTICS OF THE DAY

1 - number of unseeded men's Wimbledon champions.
44 - aces served by Tim Henman.
26 - minutes spent on court by Steffi Graf yesterday.
10 - percentage of Centre Court seats given over to corporate hospitality.

Maximum temperature 18°C

THE INDEPENDENT CRICKET LINES

International Tour Line 0891 881 485

All Counties News and Results 0891 525 075

Derbyshire 0891 525 370

Durham 0891 525 371

Essex 0891 525 372

Glamorgan 0891 525 373

Gloucs. 0891 525 374

Hampshire 0891 525 375

Kent 0891 525 376

Lancashire 0891 525 377

Leics. 0891 525 378

Middlesex 0891 525 379

Northants 0891 525 380

Notts. 0891 525 381

Somerset 0891 525 382

Surrey 0891 525 383

Sussex 0891 525 384

Warwicks. 0891 525 385

Worcesters. 0891 525 386

Yorkshire 0891 525 387

THE INDEPENDENT WIMBLEDON MATCHLINE

0891 555690

• Latest scores and results
• Today's completed results
• Visitor info

VISITORLINE

0891 555691

• Getting there
• Order of play
• Weather outlook
• Booking tickets for '97

FAXLINE

0891 662246

The above number is a handset linked to a fax machine and choose from the following options:
• Knockout chart
• Order of play
• Visitor info

Produced by Greenleaf Information Ltd, 4 Greenleaf Place, London NW1 2AB. Calls cost 9p/min cheap. Options of 10p/line.

Tim Henman, the man who put pride back into British tennis with his exploits at Wimbledon this year, will be competing in the Bournemouth International Open at the West Hants Club from 9 to 15 September.

Off to Ghana for a crucial

Davis Cup tie in the

Euro/Africa Zone Group Two

next week, Henman will join the

former French Open champion, Sergi Bruguera, and his fellow Spaniard, Alberto Costa, in the Bournemouth line-up.

The 21-year-old British No 1 has had remarkable 12 months. Last June, he was ranked only 276th in the world.

But he should climb into the top 40 for the first time when the latest batch of world rank-

ings are announced on Monday. John Fesher, the former British Davis Cup player who will be tournament director at Bournemouth, believes that the emergence of Henman and other British players such as Luke Milligan will mean a greater attendance than would otherwise have been expected at the West Hants Club.

The 21-year-old British No 1 has had remarkable 12 months. Last June, he was ranked only 276th in the world.

But he should climb into the top 40 for the first time when the latest batch of world rank-

ings are announced on Monday. John Fesher, the former British Davis Cup player who will be tournament director at Bournemouth, believes that the emergence of Henman and other British players such as Luke Milligan will mean a greater attendance than would otherwise have been expected at the West Hants Club.

The 21-year-old British No 1 has had remarkable 12 months. Last June, he was ranked only 276th in the world.

But he should climb into the top 40 for the first time when the latest batch of world rank-

ings are announced on Monday. John Fesher, the former British Davis Cup player who will be tournament director at Bournemouth, believes that the emergence of Henman and other British players such as Luke Milligan will mean a greater attendance than would otherwise have been expected at the West Hants Club.

The 21-year-old British No 1 has had remarkable 12 months. Last June, he was ranked only 276th in the world.

But he should climb into the top 40 for the first time when the latest batch of world rank-

ings are announced on Monday. John Fesher, the former British Davis Cup player who will be tournament director at Bournemouth, believes that the emergence of Henman and other British players such as Luke Milligan will mean a greater attendance than would otherwise have been expected at the West Hants Club.

The 21-year-old British No 1 has had remarkable 12 months. Last June, he was ranked only 276th in the world.

But he should climb into the top 40 for the first time when the latest batch of world rank-

ings are announced on Monday. John Fesher, the former British Davis Cup player who will be tournament director at Bournemouth, believes that the emergence of Henman and other British players such as Luke Milligan will mean a greater attendance than would otherwise have been expected at the West Hants Club.

The 21-year-old British No 1 has had remarkable 12 months. Last June, he was ranked only 276th in the world.

But he should climb into the top 40 for the first time when the latest batch of world rank-

ings are announced on Monday. John Fesher, the former British Davis Cup player who will be tournament director at Bournemouth, believes that the emergence of Henman and other British players such as Luke Milligan will mean a greater attendance than would otherwise have been expected at the West Hants Club.

The 21-year-old British No 1 has had remarkable 12 months. Last June, he was ranked only 276th in the world.

But he should climb into the top 40 for the first time when the latest batch of world rank-

ings are announced on Monday. John Fesher, the former British Davis Cup player who will be tournament director at Bournemouth, believes that the emergence of Henman and other British players such as Luke Milligan will mean a greater attendance than would otherwise have been expected at the West Hants Club.

The 21-year-old British No 1 has had remarkable 12 months. Last June, he was ranked only 276th in the world.

But he should climb into the top 40 for the first time when the latest batch of world rank-

ings are announced on Monday. John Fesher, the former British Davis Cup player who will be tournament director at Bournemouth, believes that the emergence of Henman and other British players such as Luke Milligan will mean a greater attendance than would otherwise have been expected at the West Hants Club.

The 21-year-old British No 1 has had remarkable 12 months. Last June, he was ranked only 276th in the world.

But he should climb into the top 40 for the first time when the latest batch of world rank-

ings are announced on Monday. John Fesher, the former British Davis Cup player who will be tournament director at Bournemouth, believes that the emergence of Henman and other British players such as Luke Milligan will mean a greater attendance than would otherwise have been expected at the West Hants Club.

The 21-year-old British No 1 has had remarkable 12 months. Last June, he was ranked only 276th in the world.

But he should climb into the top 40 for the first time when the latest batch of world rank-

ings are announced on Monday. John Fesher, the former British Davis Cup player who will be tournament director at Bournemouth, believes that the emergence of Henman and other British players such as Luke Milligan will mean a greater attendance than would otherwise have been expected at the West Hants Club.

The 21-year-old British No 1 has had remarkable 12 months. Last June, he was ranked only 276th in the world.

But he should climb into the top 40 for the first time when the latest batch of world rank-

ings are announced on Monday. John Fesher, the former British Davis Cup player who will be tournament director at Bournemouth, believes that the emergence of Henman and other British players such as Luke Milligan will mean a greater attendance than would otherwise have been expected at the West Hants Club.

The 21-year-old British No 1 has had remarkable 12 months. Last June, he was ranked only 276th in the world.

But he should climb into the top 40 for the first time when the latest batch of world rank-

ings are announced on Monday. John Fesher, the former British Davis Cup player who will be tournament director at Bournemouth, believes that the emergence of Henman and other British players such as Luke Milligan will mean a greater attendance than would otherwise have been expected at the West Hants Club.

The 21-year-old British No 1 has had remarkable 12 months. Last June, he was ranked only 276th in the world.

But he should climb into the top 40 for the first time when the latest batch of world rank-

ings are announced on Monday. John Fesher, the former British Davis Cup player who will be tournament director at Bournemouth, believes that the emergence of Henman and other British players such as Luke Milligan will mean a greater attendance than would otherwise have been expected at the West Hants Club.

The 21-year-old British No 1 has had remarkable 12 months. Last June, he was ranked only 276th in the world.

But he should climb into the top 40 for the first time when the latest batch of world rank-

ings are announced on Monday. John Fesher, the former British Davis Cup player who will be tournament director at Bournemouth, believes that the emergence of Henman and other British players such as Luke Milligan will mean a greater attendance than would otherwise have been expected at the West Hants Club.

The 21-year-old British No 1 has had remarkable 12 months. Last June, he was ranked only 276th in the world.

But he should climb into the top 40 for the first time when the latest batch of world rank-

ings are announced on Monday. John Fesher, the former British Davis Cup player who will be tournament director at Bournemouth, believes that the emergence of Henman and other British players such as Luke Milligan will mean a greater attendance than would otherwise have been expected at the West Hants Club.

The 21-year-old British No 1 has had remarkable 12 months. Last June, he was ranked only 276th in the world.

But he should climb into the top 40 for the first time when the latest batch of world rank-

ings are announced on Monday. John Fesher, the former British Davis Cup player who will be tournament director at Bournemouth, believes that the emergence of Henman and other British players such as Luke Milligan will mean a greater attendance than would otherwise have been expected at the West Hants Club.

The 21-year-old British No 1 has had remarkable 12 months. Last June, he was ranked only 276th in the world.

But he should climb into the top 40 for the first time when the latest batch of world rank-

ings are announced on Monday. John Fesher, the former British Davis Cup player who will be tournament director at Bournemouth, believes that the emergence of Henman and other British players such as Luke Milligan will mean a greater attendance than would otherwise have been expected at the West Hants Club.

The 21-year-old British No 1 has had remarkable 12 months. Last June, he was ranked only 276th in the world.

But he should climb into the top 40 for the first time when the latest batch of world rank-

ings are announced on Monday. John Fesher, the former British Davis Cup player who will be tournament director at Bournemouth, believes that the emergence of Henman and other British players such as Luke Milligan will mean a greater attendance than would otherwise have been expected at the West Hants Club.

The 21-year-old British No 1 has had remarkable 12 months. Last June, he was ranked only 276th in the world.

But he should climb into the top 40 for the first time when the latest batch of world rank-

ings are announced on Monday. John Fesher, the former British Davis Cup player who will be tournament director at Bournemouth, believes that the emergence of Henman and other British players such as Luke Milligan will mean a greater attendance than would otherwise have been expected at the West Hants Club.

The 21-year-old British No 1 has had remarkable 12 months. Last June, he was ranked only 276th in the world.

But he should climb into the top 40 for the first time when the latest batch of world rank-

ings are announced on Monday. John Fesher, the former British Davis Cup player who will be tournament director at Bournemouth, believes that the emergence of Henman and other British players such as Luke Milligan will mean a greater attendance than would otherwise have been expected at the West Hants Club.

The 21-year-old British No 1 has had remarkable 12 months. Last June, he was ranked only 276th in the world.

But he should climb into the top 40 for the first time when the latest batch of world rank-

ings are announced on Monday. John Fesher, the former British Davis Cup player who will be tournament director at Bournemouth, believes that the emergence of Henman and other British players such as Luke Milligan will mean a greater attendance than would otherwise have been expected at the West Hants Club.

The 21-year-old British No 1 has had remarkable 12 months. Last June, he was ranked only 276th in the world.

SPORT

THIRD TEST: England face an uphill struggle at Trent Bridge

BOXING: Steve Collins prepares for another big pay day

26

22

WIMBLEDON 96: Frustration for men's semi-finals as rain delays a finish in one and a start in the other

Graf keeps date with Sanchez Vicario

JOHN ROBERTS
Tennis Correspondent

 It was not yet noon, and the sun was still teasing us. Steffi Graf had completed her overtime, a final set to defeat Kimiko Date, 6-2, 2-6, 6-3, and was ready to nurse her sinuses. Arantxa Sanchez Vicario had practised and was resting in preparation to renew her rivalry with Graf in the women's singles final today.

Meanwhile, the four men whose names almost escaped everyone en route to the semi-finals were wondering how long the weather would hold. Eleven days at Wimbledon had reinforced their faith in taking one match at a time, though not necessarily in the space of 24 hours.

Todd Martin, the last seed on the lawns, and his American compatriot MaliVai Washington were sent out to make the best of it. The Dutchman Richard Krajicek and Australia's Jason Stoltenberg, conquerors of Pete Sampras and Goran Ivanisevic respectively, waited and hoped.

Martin tried to push things along, winning the opening three games against Washington, but his nerve seemed to tighten when he served for the set at 5-3. Although broken at this stage, Martin regained the initiative and secured a lead, 7-5, but Washington had been sufficiently encouraged to make the running in the second set.

In common with his opponent, Washington experienced difficulty when it came to serving out the set. Martin saved the first of three set points at 4-5 with a cross-court forehand. On the second, Washington found the net with a forehand.

When Martin hit a forehand wide to leave a third set point hanging, a spectator shouted, "Come on, Washington!" "OK," Washington said, glancing up, and proceeded to terminate a brief rally with a smash for 6-4.

Although Martin took a 4-1

lead in the third set, spectators anticipated a lull. Sure enough, he was broken when serving for set at 5-3, a forehand clipping the net cord and drifting wide.

A confident crosscourt backhand created a set point for Martin in the next game, but Washington served it away with an ace, after which neither player had another opportunity before the shoot-out.

Unseeded Men's Singles Finalists

1990 Bill Tilden (US) 2-0
1963 Willie Allison (US) 6-3 9-7 6-4
1963 Vic Seixas (US) 2-0
Kurt Nielsen (Den) 9-7 6-3 6-4
1995 Tony Trabert (US) 1-1
Kurt Nielsen (Den) 6-3 7-5 6-1
1985 Alex Olegario (US) 1-1
1985 Steve Rouse (US) 6-4 6-4
1989 Rod Laver (Aus) 1-1
1995 Martin Milligan (Aus) 6-2 6-2 6-1
1993 Chuck McKinley (US) 4-0
Fred Stolle (Aus) 9-7 6-1 6-4
1967 John Newcombe (Aus) 3-0
1995 William Blumberg (Ger) 6-3 6-1 6-1
1983 John McEnroe (US) 2-0
Chris Lewis (NZ) 6-2 6-2 6-2
1985 Boris Becker (W) to Kevin Curren (SA) 11-6 6-7 6-6 6-4

By now, ominous clouds were gathering, and the rain first began to spit during the tie-break. Washington asked the umpire to request the crowd to be quiet during rallies – such as they were – but he was unable to capitalise on a 3-1 lead.

He did, however, vigorously fight off two more set points when serving at 3-6, and Mar-

tin subsequently double-faulted on a fourth opportunity. Composing himself, Martin immediately delivered an ace to create a fifth set point, and he converted this one with a powerful service return for 8-6.

Play was then suspended for the first time, for 35 minutes, after which Washington appeared to return to the court the more eager. He pounced on his opponent's rare loose serves, and was the beneficiary of Martin's tendency to be tentative with his volleys.

A combination of these factors cost Martin the fourth set, 3-6, and enabled Washington to square the match. Having denied his opponent four game points at 3-2, Washington passed him with a forehand return off a second serve to give himself a break point. And when Martin again missed his first serve, Washington's return unnervered him into hitting a backhand volley over the baseline.

They had been playing for

two hours and 43 minutes, and the result was still in the balance – 7-5, 4-6, 7-6, 3-6 – when further rain delayed the start of the final set. The All England Club again did its best to entertain the dampened Centre Court spectators – showtime with Sir Cliff Richard on Wednesday, an audience with Sir Peter Ustinov yesterday. Who next, Michael Fish?

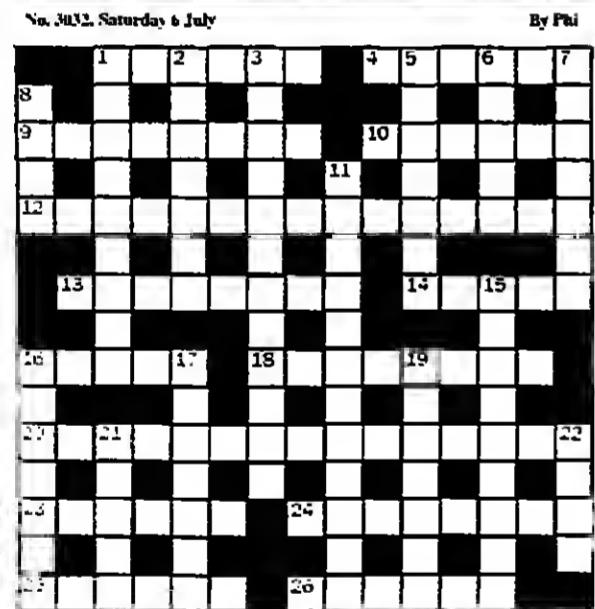
More reports, results, page 27

THE INDEPENDENT CROSSWORD

Lost for words?

Turn to the Franklin Bookman® Dictionary and Thesaurus.

To order Franklin products, ring 01252 861500



ACROSS

- Back in less than a minute! (6)
- Dog providing b-benefit (6)
- Giving power to reverse infestation on leather (8)
- Poss, a mercenary by name as beneficent of promise (6)
- Unprovocable trigonometer: a proposition a series of emotional turns (6)
- Fine garment: it's leaden! (6)
- Each other moving back and, in deuce (5)
- Sand, for part used for reflection (5)
- Working hard in single rope, in chinos (12)
- Could it increase the effect of a blow on the nose? (4-5-6)

DOWN

- What's right for a theatre audience? (5)
- Blocked by military officer (7)
- Cold, rain served up includes drop of hooch – so it's not this! (5-9)
- Unexceptional edition of BBC's return English to rant (7)
- Unpleasant row (4)

THE FRANKLIN SCRABBLE Make the longest word you can from **WIMBLEDON** Friday's Scrabble: **OBSEVANT**

Win a Franklin Bookman Dictionary and Thesaurus worth £100

The first correct solution to this week's puzzle spending next Thursday will win a Franklin Bookman Dictionary and Thesaurus worth £100. Answers and the winner's name will be published next Saturday. Send solutions to Saturday's Crossword, P.O. Box 4018, The Independent, 1 Canada Square, Canary Wharf, London E14 5BL. Please use the box number and postcode and give your own postcode. Last week's winner was Alasdair Reid, Wexford.



Service with style: MaliVai Washington in action against Todd Martin yesterday

Photograph: David Ashdown

Published by Newspaper Publishing PLC, 1 Canada Square, Canary Wharf, London E14 5BL, and printed at Martin Colour Print, St Albans Road, Watford. Back issues available from Historical Newspapers, 081 936 6171. Printed in July 1996. Registered as a newspaper with the Post Office.

0800 550 550

join us

RAC

From door to door



WIMBLEDON 96
TENNIS
GRAND PRIX
ATLANTA
1996

ATLANTA
1996